Walt Disney
MAGAZINES

PKNA #22

LIRE 4000

PK
PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

FRAMMENTI D'AUTUNNO

The Walt Disney Company Italia S.p.A. - Mensile n. 22 - OTTOBRE 1998 - Sped. Abb. Postale Comma 34 Art. 2 Legge 549/95 - MI

www.topolino.it/pk

Fragments of Autumn

Frammenti d'autunno

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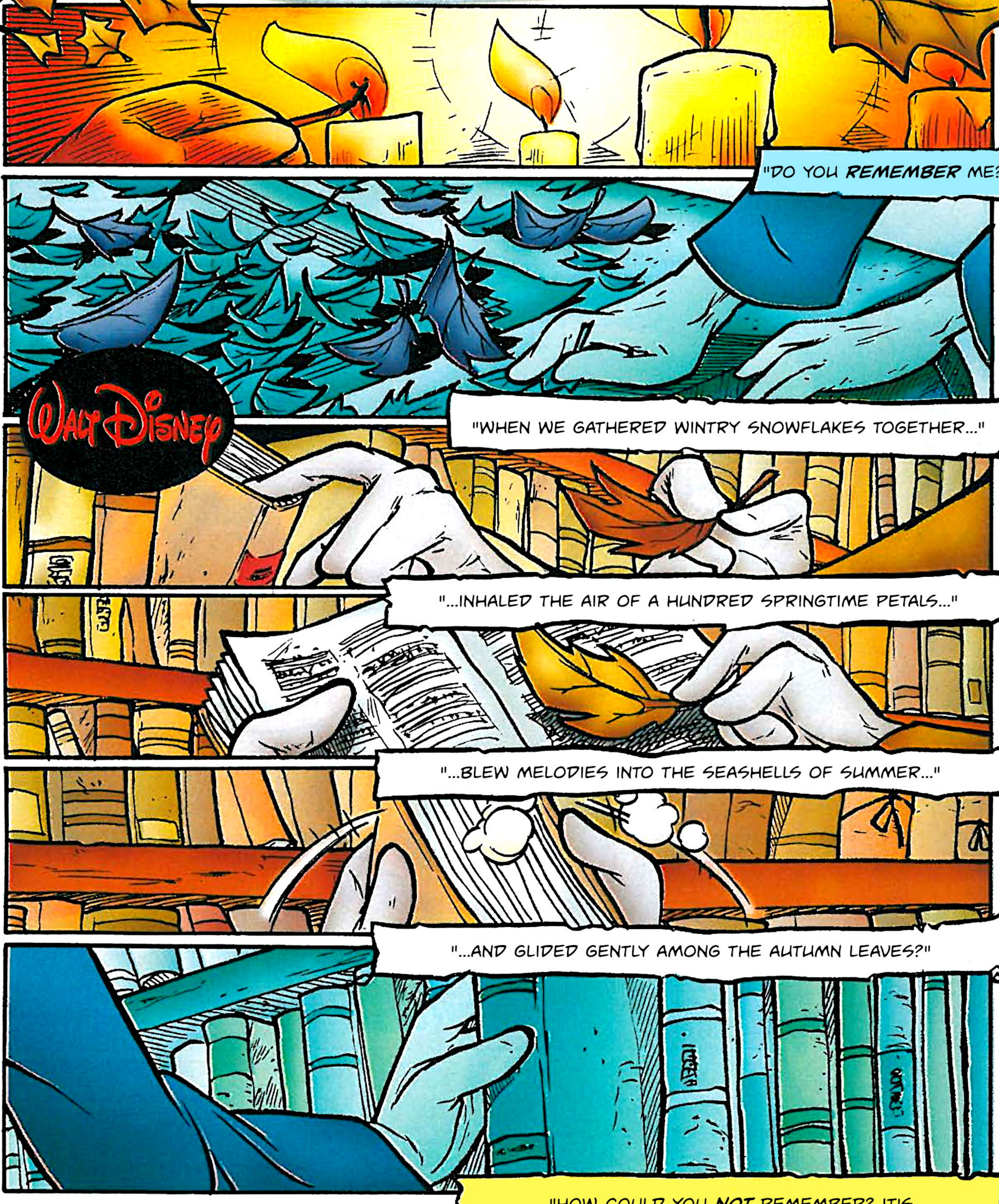
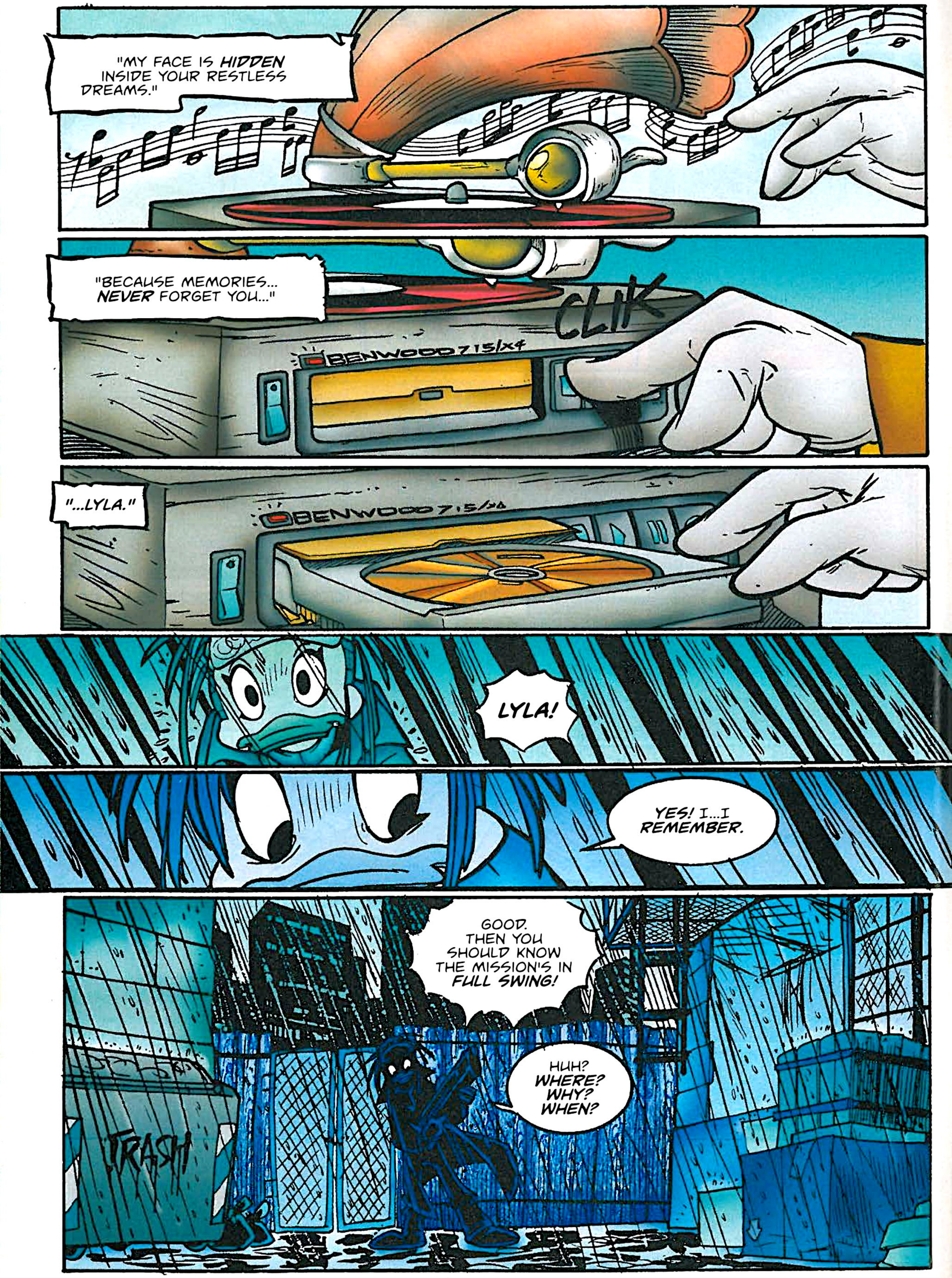
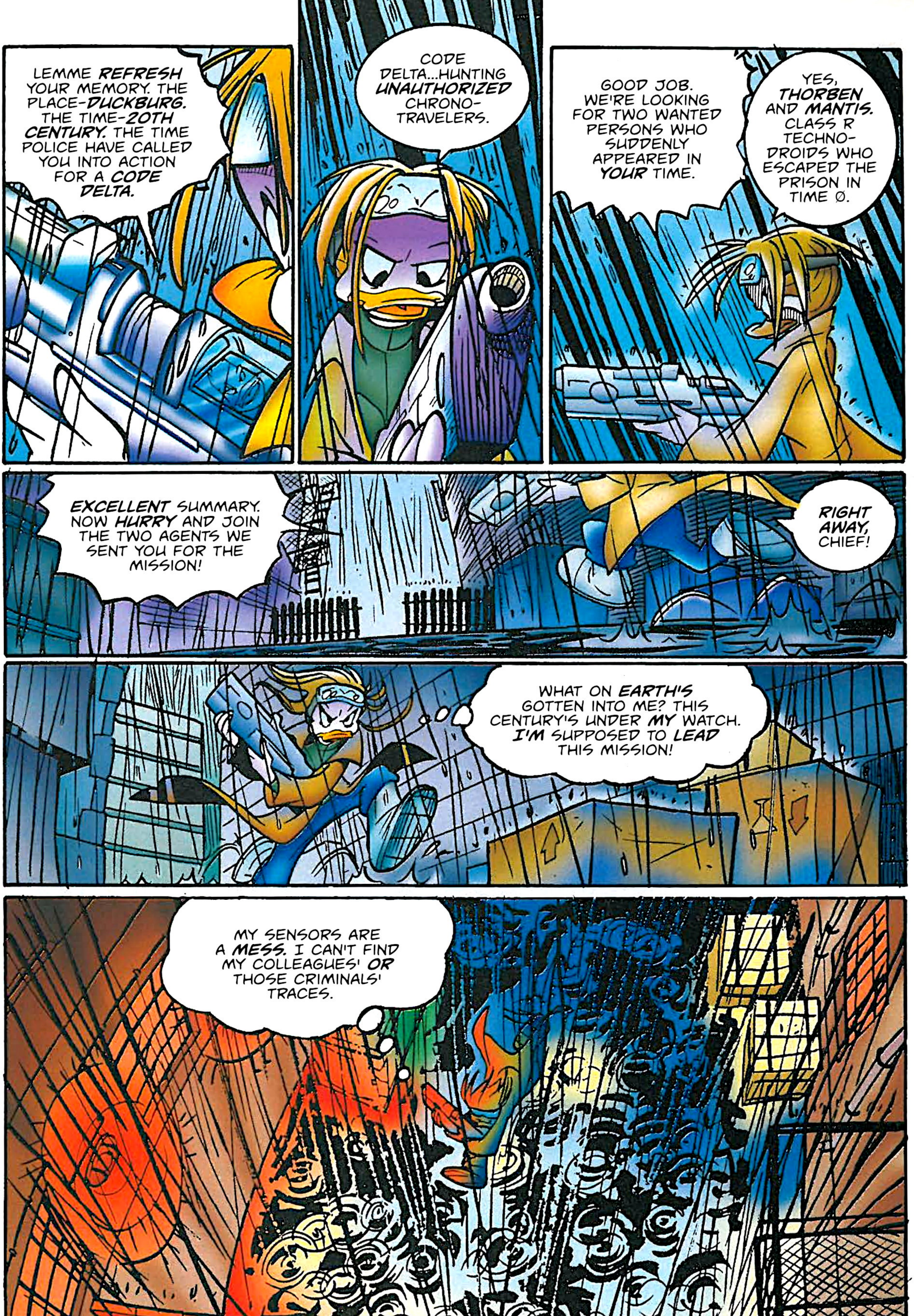
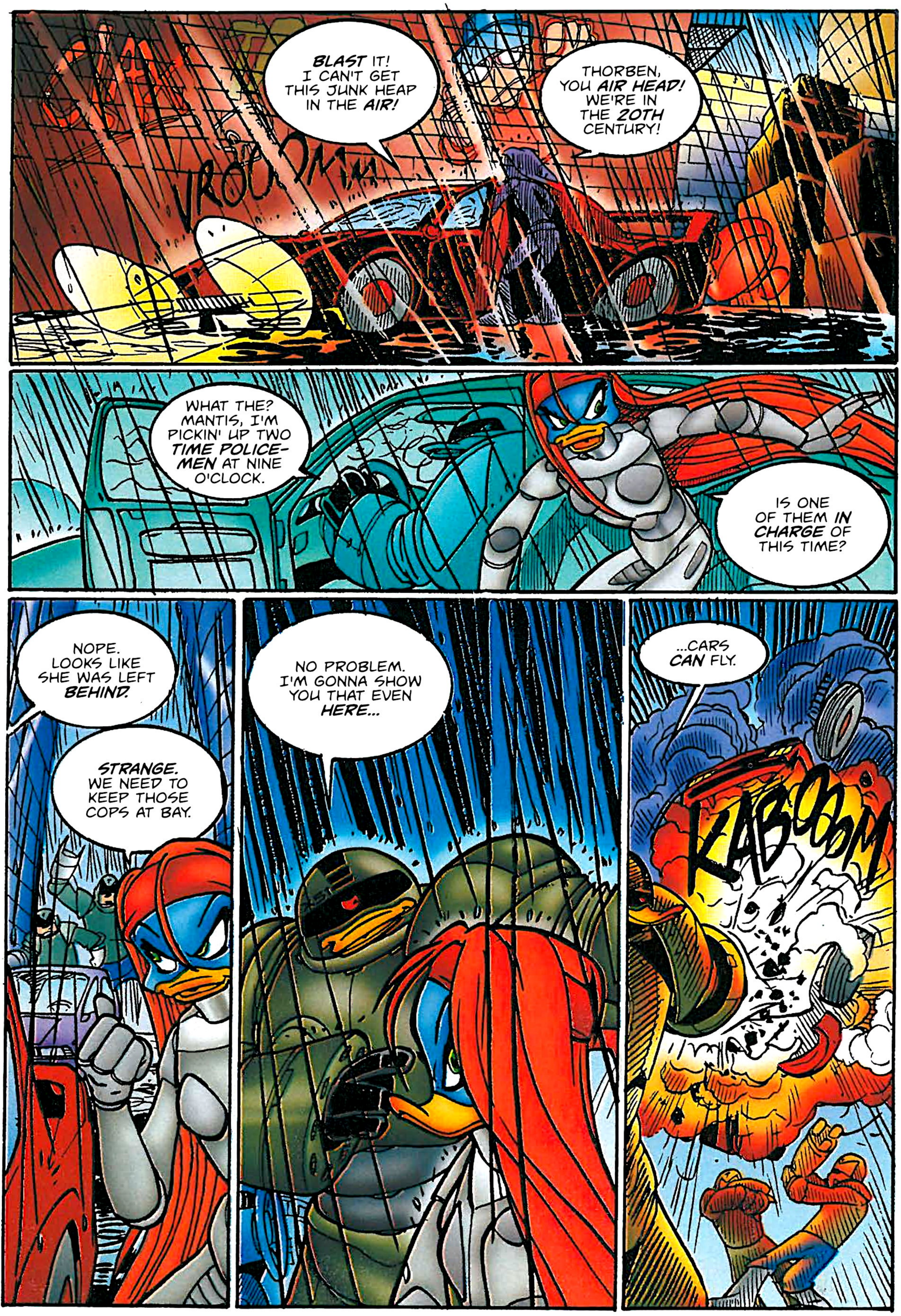
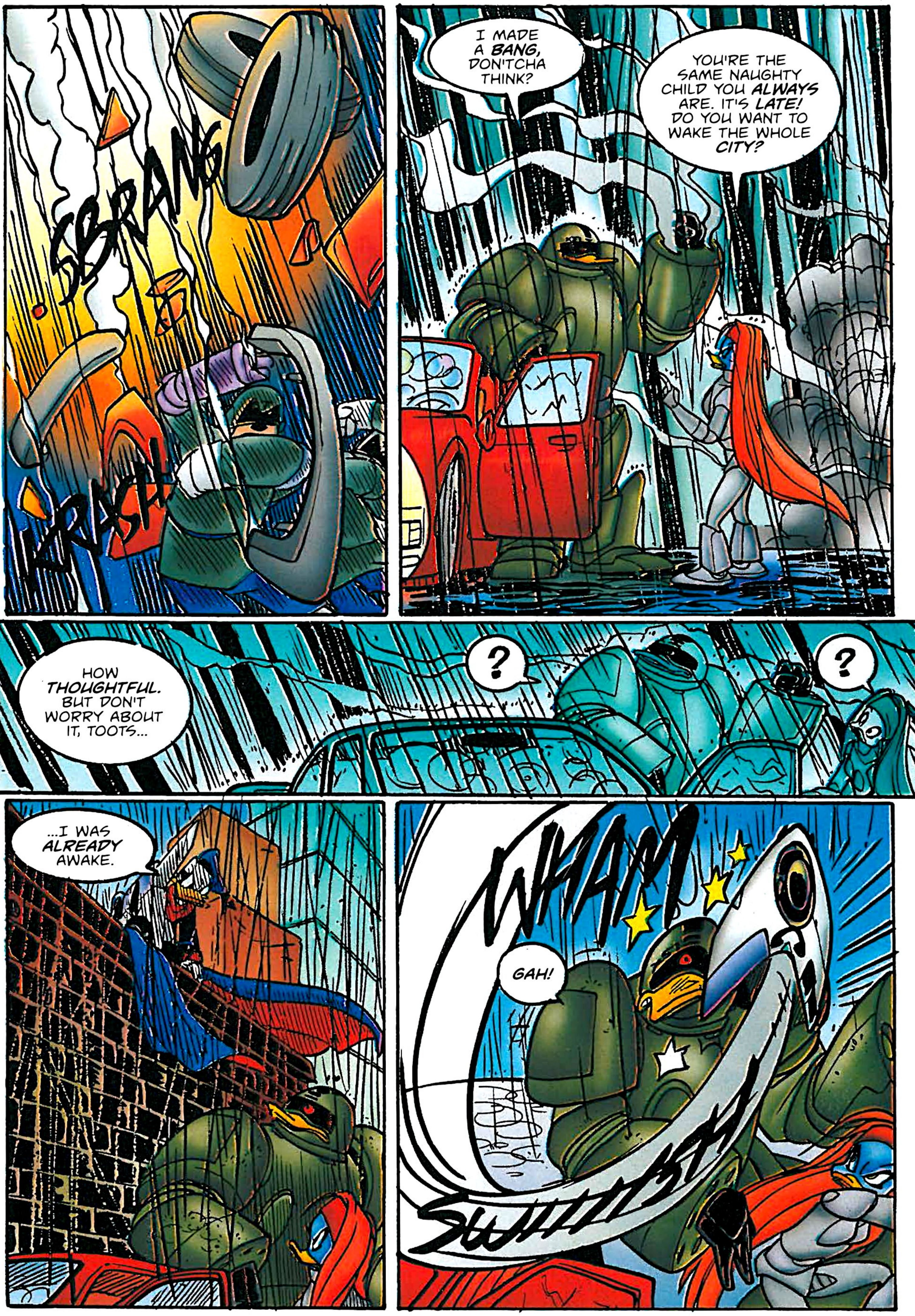
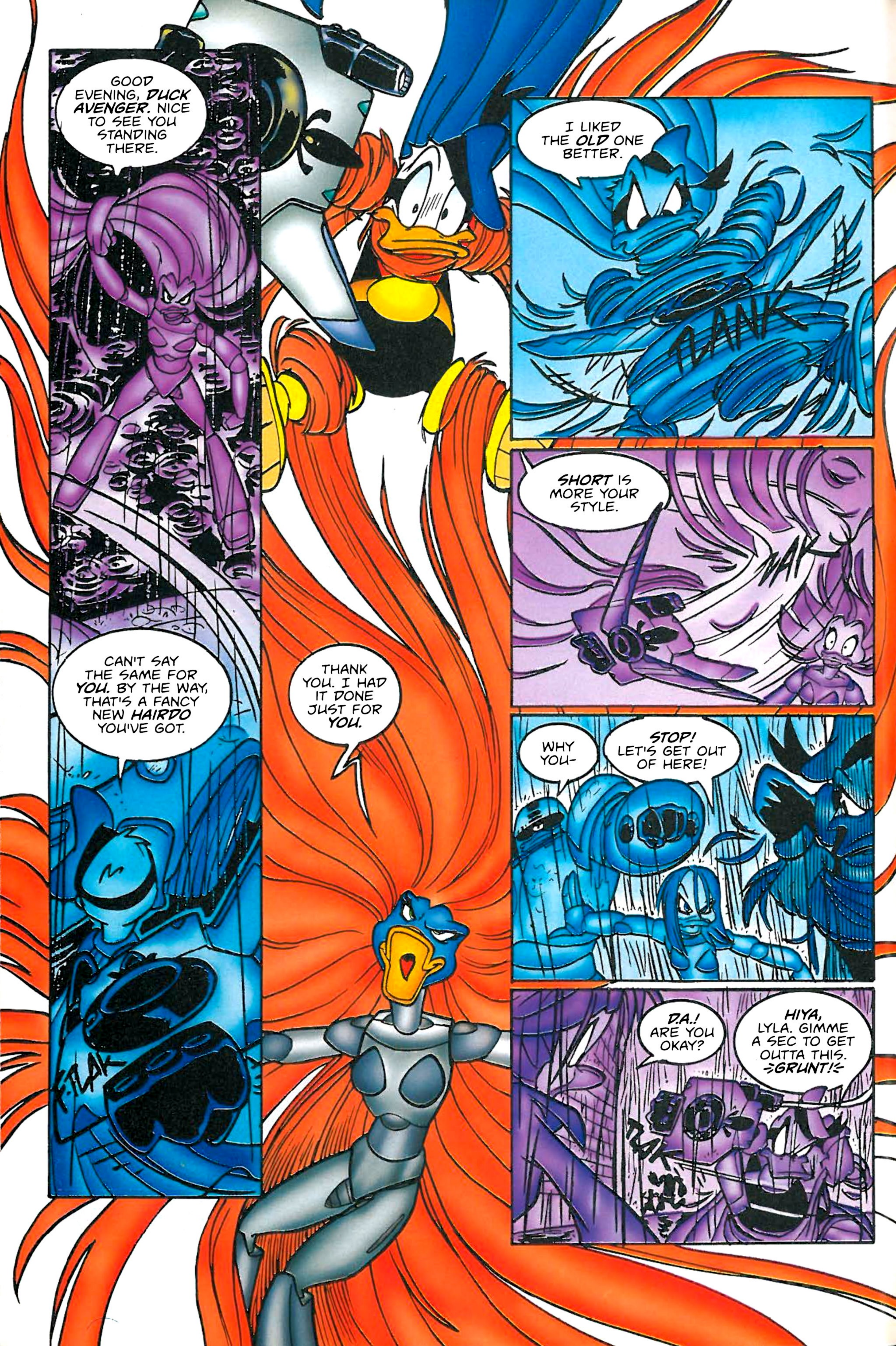

"DO YOU REMEMBER ME?"
WALT DISNEY
"WHEN WE GATHERED WINTRY SNOWFLAKES TOGETHER..."
"...INHALED THE AIR OF A HUNDRED SPRINGTIME PETALS..."
"...BLEW MELODIES INTO THE SEASHELLS OF SUMMER..."
"...AND GLIDED GENTLY AMONG THE AUTUMN LEAVES?"
"HOW COULD YOU NOT REMEMBER? IT'S ALL WRITTEN IN YOUR IMMACULATE MIND."

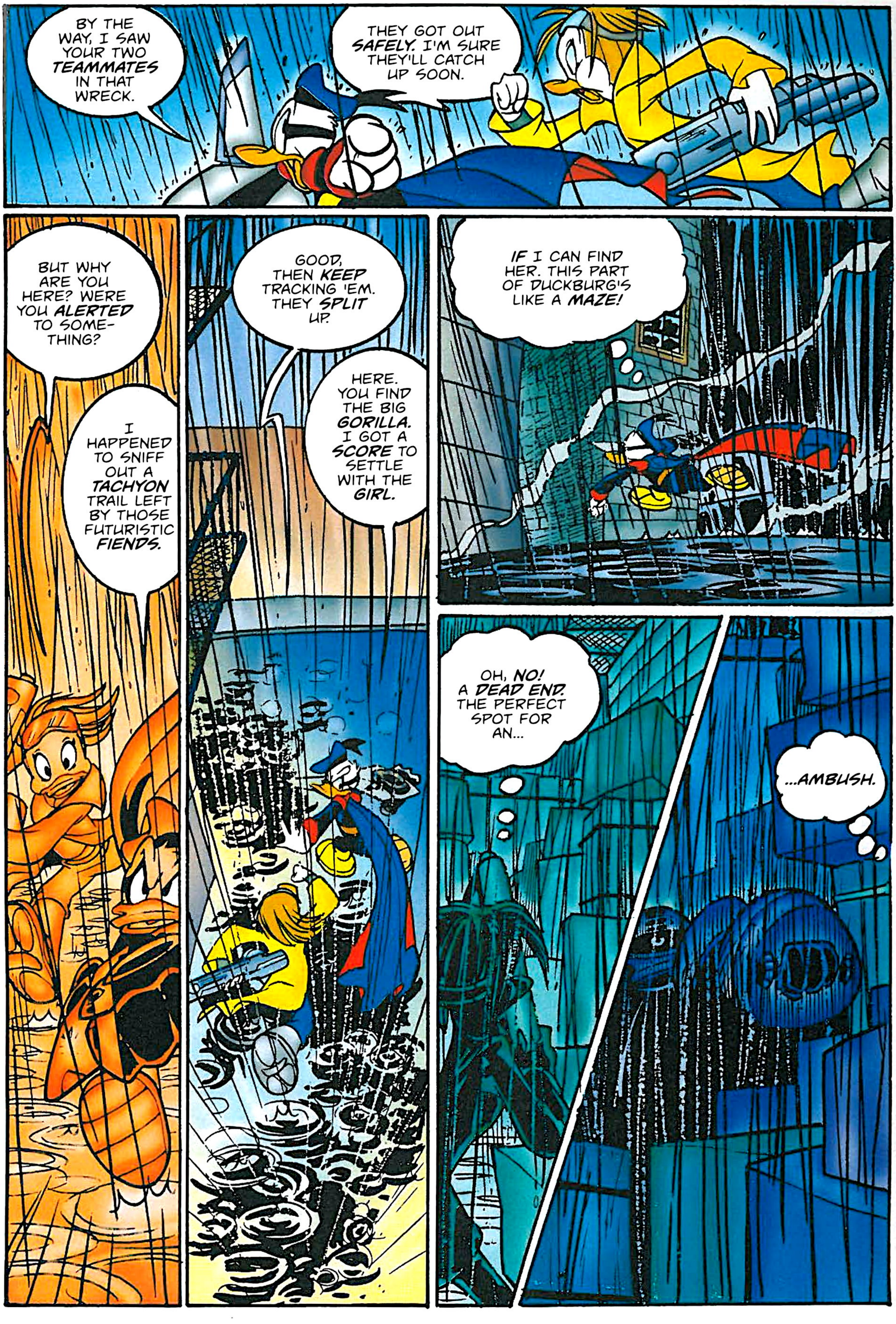

"MY FACE IS **HIDDEN** INSIDE YOUR RESTLESS DREAMS."
"BECAUSE MEMORIES... **NEVER** FORGET YOU..."
CLIK
BENWOOD 715/X4
"...LYLA."
BENWOOD 715/X4
LYLA!
YES! I...I REMEMBER.
GOOD. THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW THE MISSION'S IN **FULL SWING!**
HUH? **WHERE? WHY? WHEN?**
TRASH

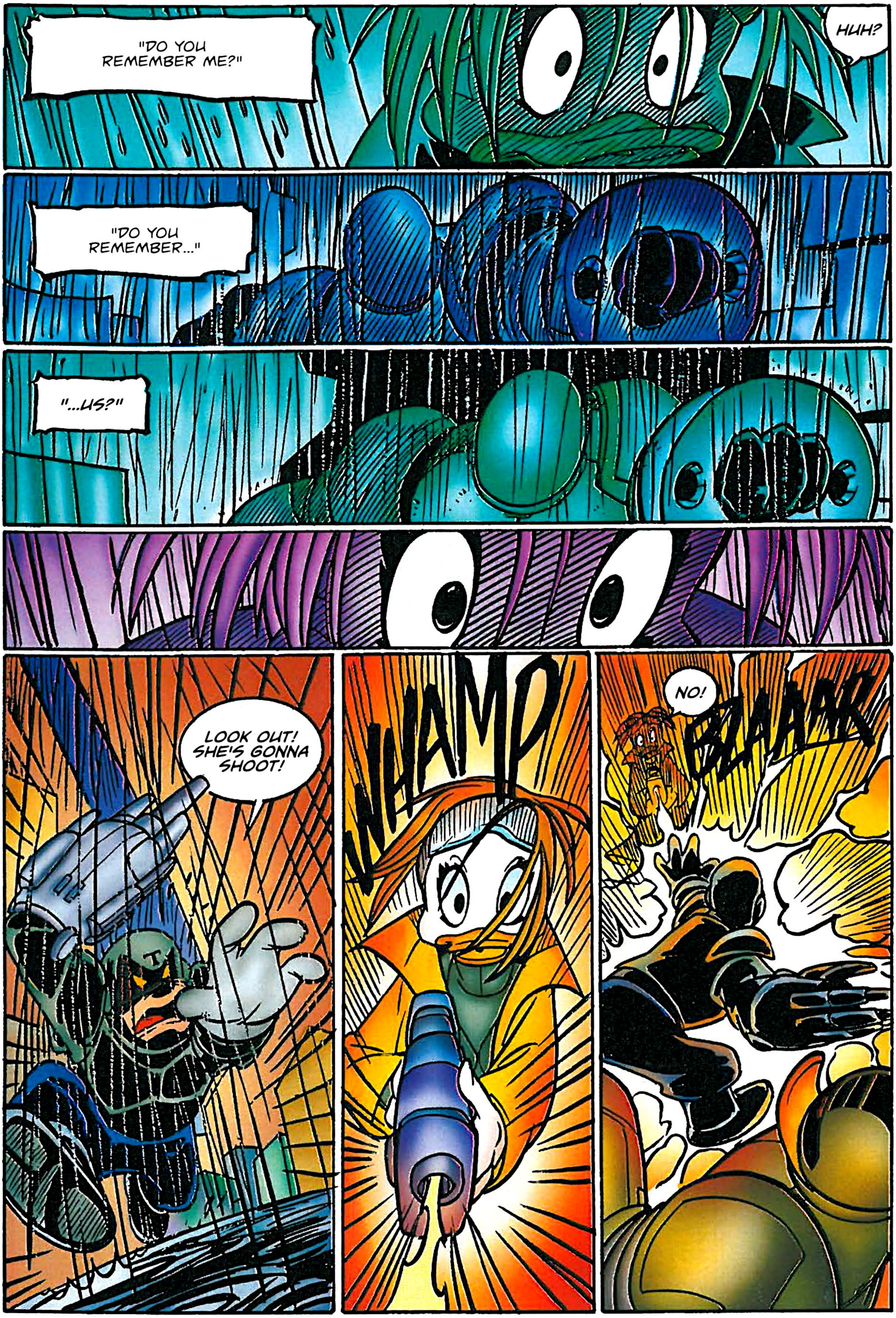

LEMME REFRESH YOUR MEMORY. THE PLACE-DUCKBURG. THE TIME-20TH CENTURY. THE TIME POLICE HAVE CALLED YOU INTO ACTION FOR A CODE DELTA.
CODE DELTA...HUNTING UNAUTHORIZED CHRONO-TRAVELERS.
GOOD JOB. WE'RE LOOKING FOR TWO WANTED PERSONS WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED IN YOUR TIME.
YES, THORBEN AND MANTIS. CLASS R TECHNO-DROIDS WHO ESCAPED THE PRISON IN TIME 0.
EXCELLENT SUMMARY. NOW HURRY AND JOIN THE TWO AGENTS WE SENT YOU FOR THE MISSION!
RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF!
WHAT ON EARTH'S GOTTEN INTO ME? THIS CENTURY'S UNDER MY WATCH. I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAD THIS MISSION!
MY SENSORS ARE A MESS. I CAN'T FIND MY COLLEAGUES' OR THOSE CRIMINALS' TRACES.

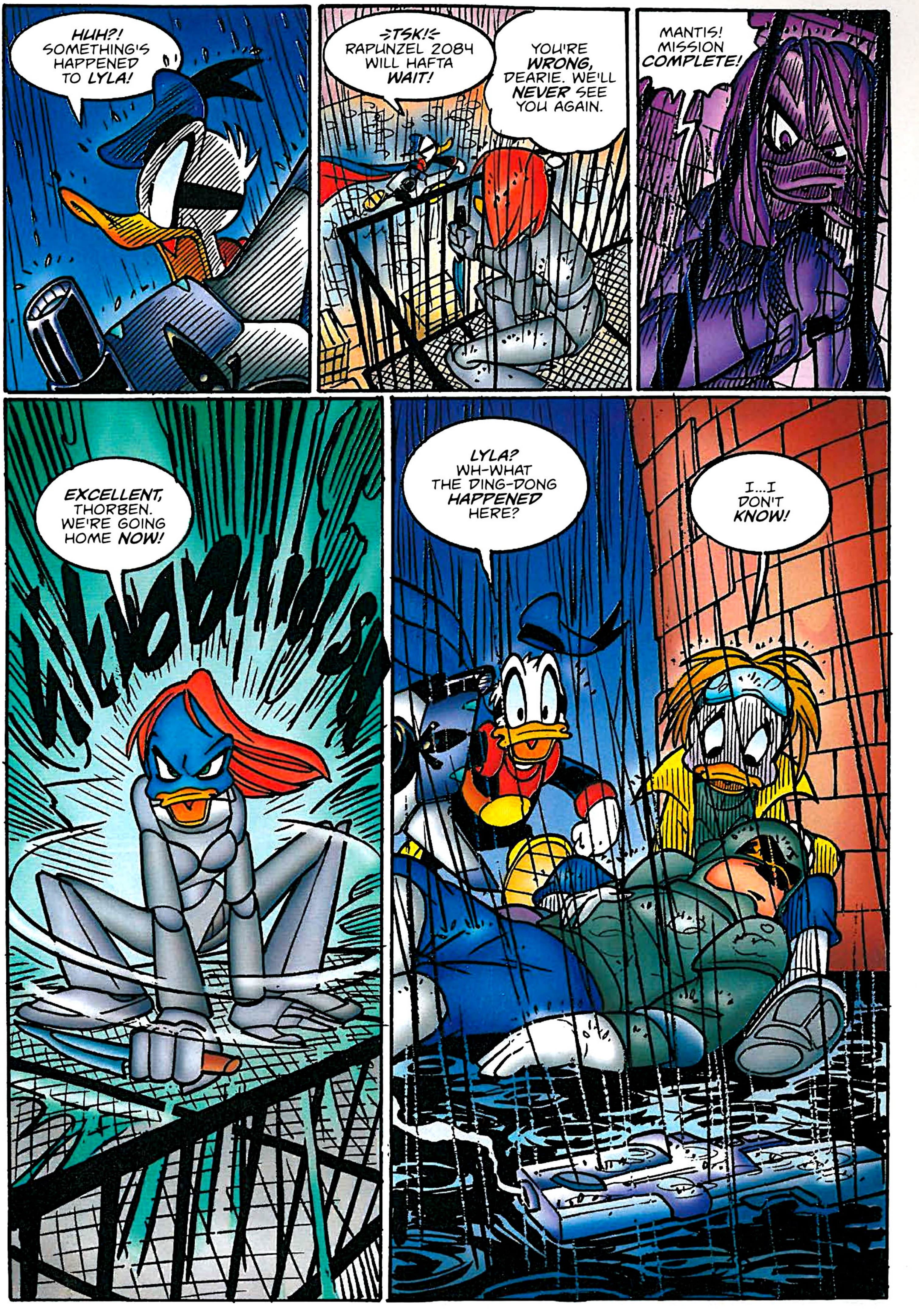

BLAST IT! I CAN'T GET THIS JUNK HEAP IN THE AIR!
VROOOM
THORBEN, YOU AIR HEAD! WE'RE IN THE 20TH CENTURY!
WHAT THE? MANTIS, I'M PICKIN' UP TWO TIME POLICEMEN AT NINE O'CLOCK.
IS ONE OF THEM IN CHARGE OF THIS TIME?
NOPE. LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS LEFT BEHIND.
STRANGE. WE NEED TO KEEP THOSE COPS AT BAY.
NO PROBLEM. I'M GONNA SHOW YOU THAT EVEN HERE...
...CARS CAN FLY.
KABOOOM

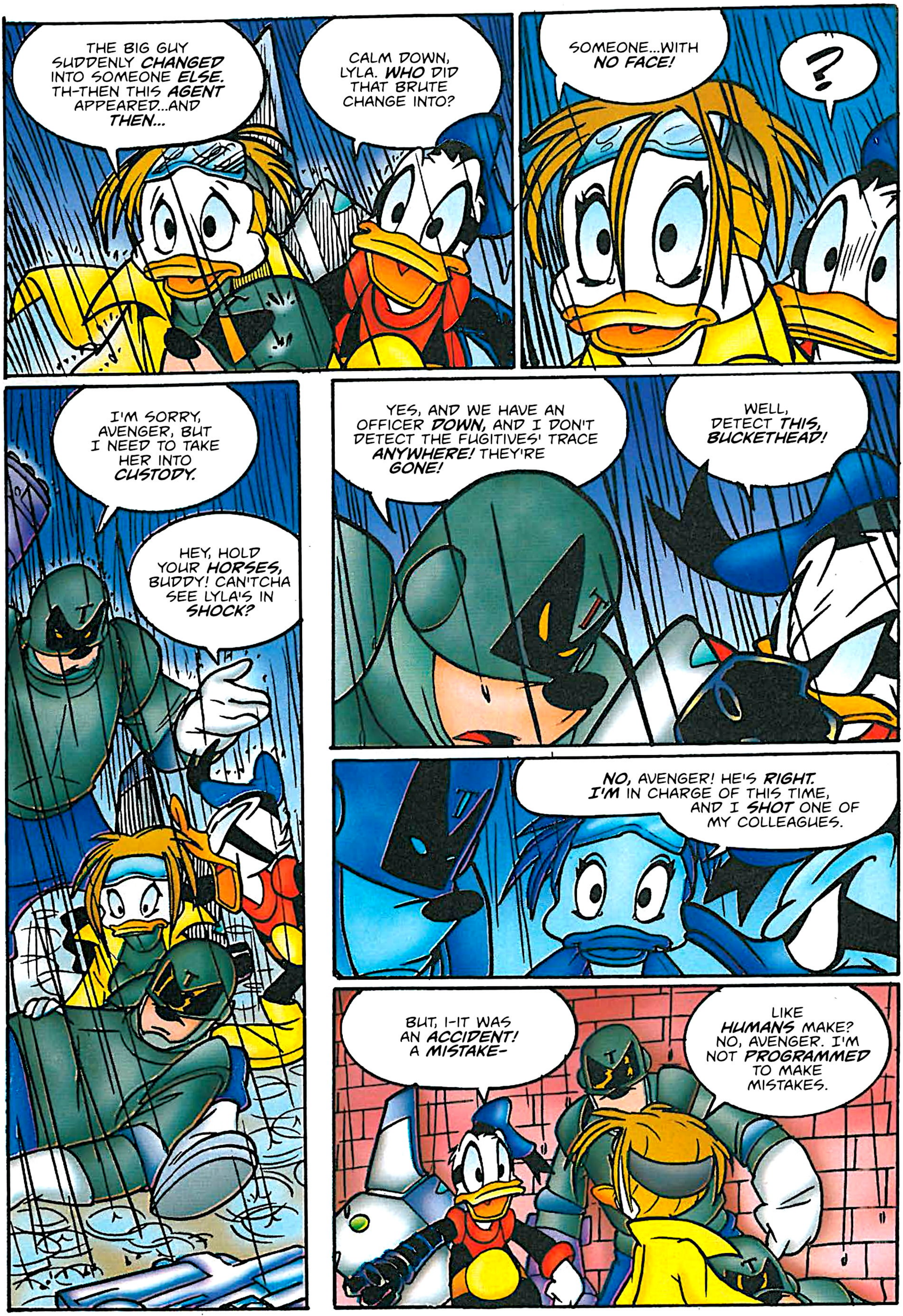

SBRANG
CRASH!
I MADE A BANG, DON'TCHA THINK?
YOU'RE THE SAME NAUGHTY CHILD YOU ALWAYS ARE. IT'S LATE! DO YOU WANT TO WAKE THE WHOLE CITY?
HOW THOUGHTFUL. BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TOOTS...
?
?
...I WAS ALREADY AWAKE.
WHAM
GAH!
SWIIISH

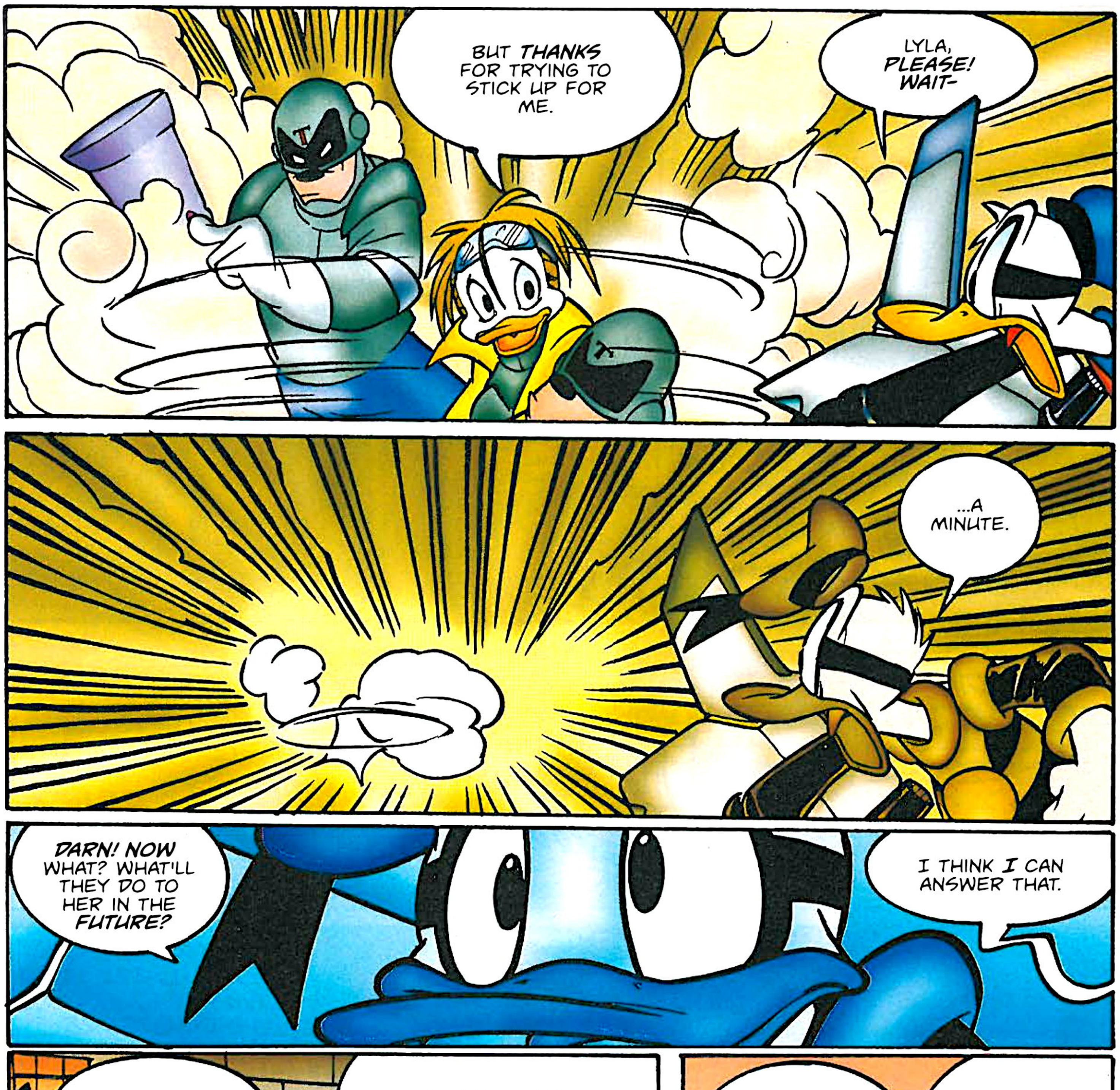

GOOD EVENING, **DUCK AVENGER.** NICE TO SEE YOU STANDING THERE.
CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR **YOU.** BY THE WAY, THAT'S A FANCY NEW **HAIRDO** YOU'VE GOT.
F-FLAK
THANK YOU. I HAD IT DONE JUST FOR **YOU.**
I LIKED THE **OLD** ONE BETTER.
TLANK
SHORT IS MORE YOUR STYLE.
NAK
WHY YOU-
STOP! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
D.A.! ARE YOU OKAY?
HIYA, LYLA. GIMME A SEC TO GET OUTTA THIS. **≈GRUNT!≈**

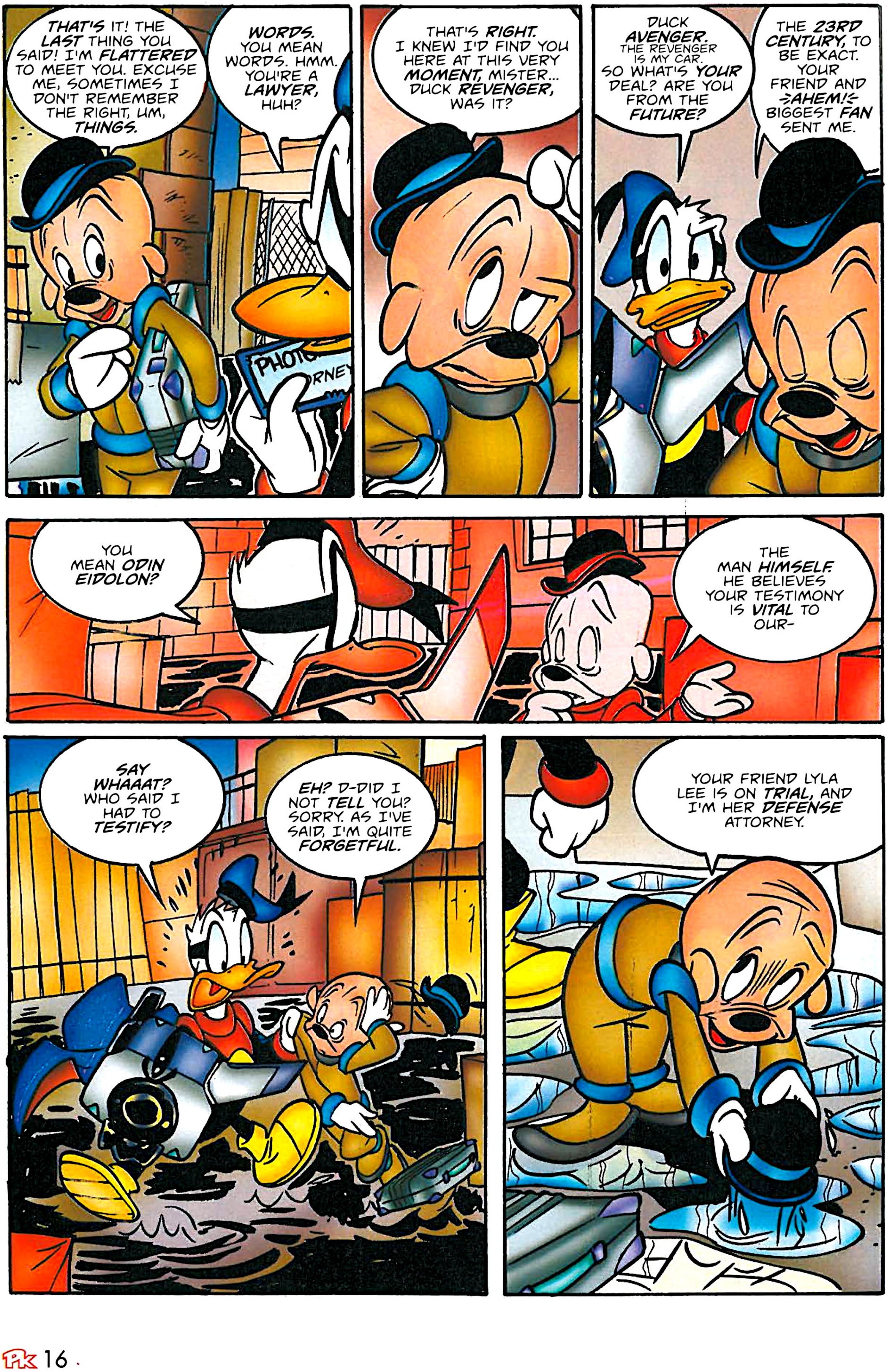

BY THE WAY, I SAW YOUR TWO **TEAMMATES** IN THAT WRECK.
THEY GOT OUT ***SAFELY.*** I'M SURE THEY'LL CATCH UP SOON.
BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE? WERE YOU ***ALERTED*** TO SOMETHING?
I HAPPENED TO SNIFF OUT A ***TACHYON*** TRAIL LEFT BY THOSE FUTURISTIC ***FIENDS.***
GOOD, THEN ***KEEP*** TRACKING 'EM. THEY ***SPLIT*** UP.
HERE. YOU FIND THE BIG ***GORILLA.*** I GOT A ***SCORE*** TO SETTLE WITH THE ***GIRL.***
IF I CAN FIND HER. THIS PART OF DUCKBURG'S LIKE A ***MAZE!***
OH, ***NO!*** A ***DEAD END.*** THE PERFECT SPOT FOR AN...
...AMBUSH.

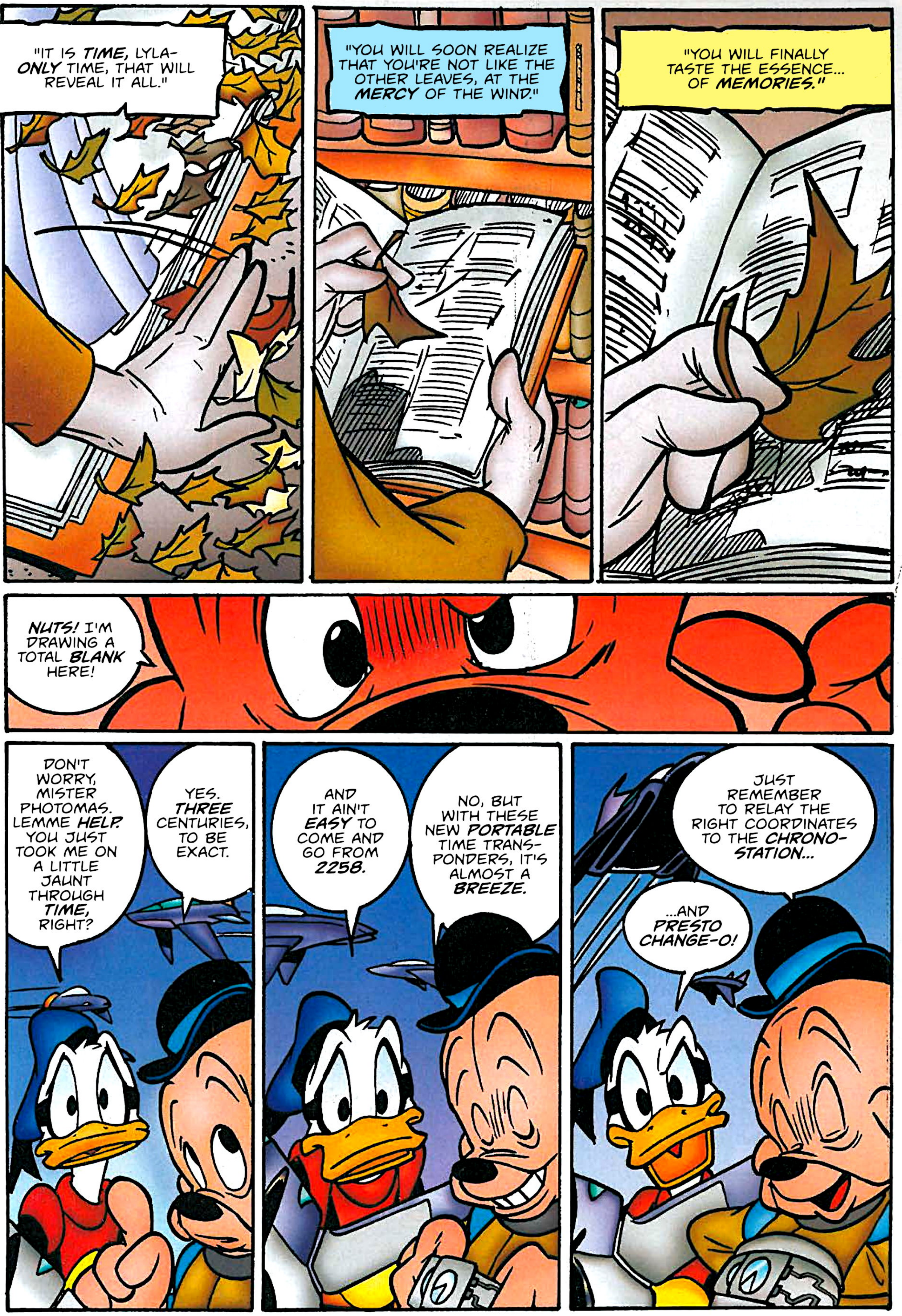

"DO YOU REMEMBER ME?"
HUH?
"DO YOU REMEMBER..."
"...US?"
LOOK OUT! SHE'S GONNA SHOOT!
WHAMP
NO!
BZAAAK

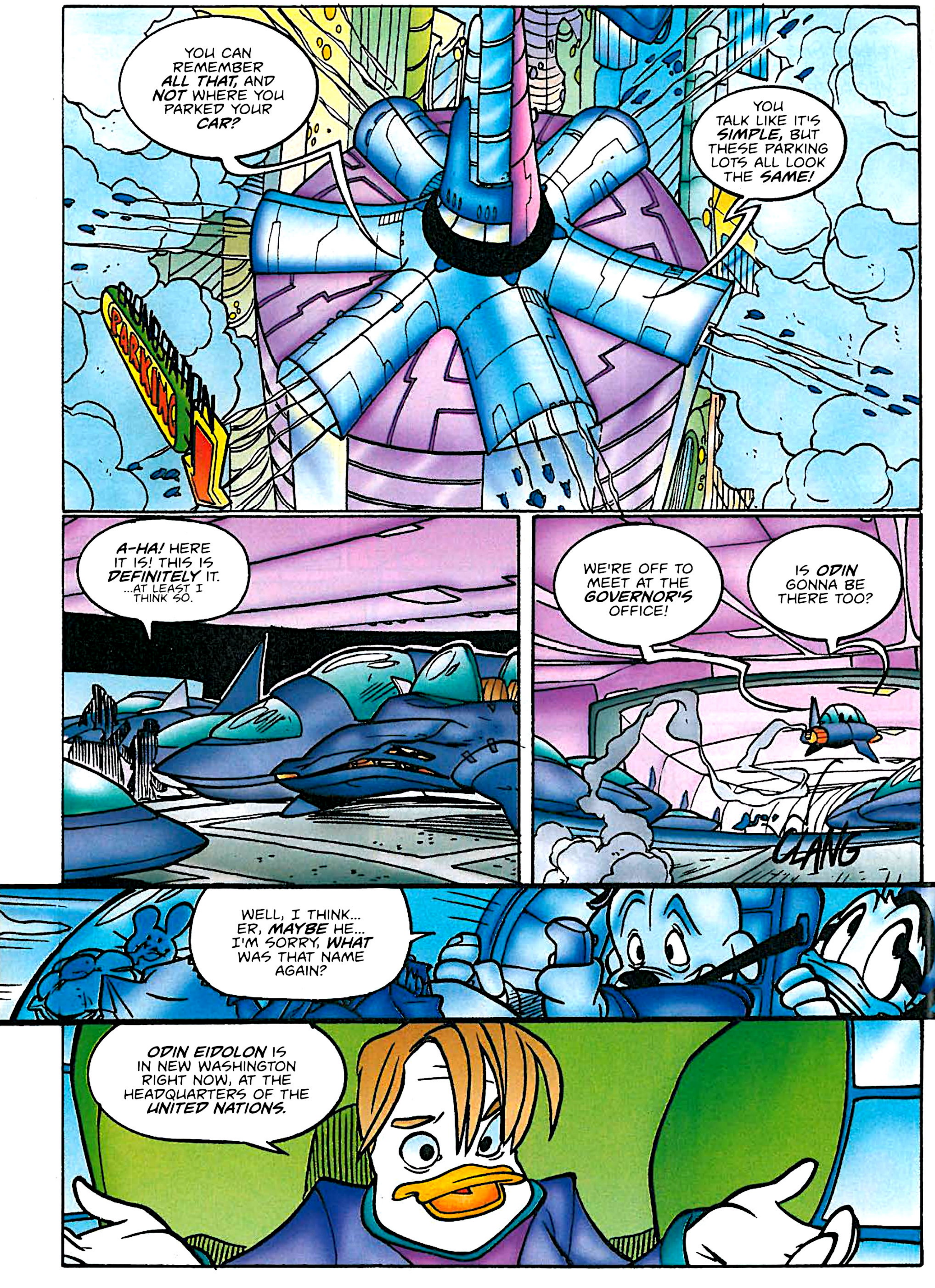

HUH?! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO LYLA!
TSK! RAPUNZEL 2084 WILL HAFTA WAIT!
YOU'RE WRONG, DEARIE. WE'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
MANTIS! MISSION COMPLETE!
EXCELLENT, THORBEN. WE'RE GOING HOME NOW!
LYLA? WH-WHAT THE DING-DONG HAPPENED HERE?
I...I DON'T KNOW!

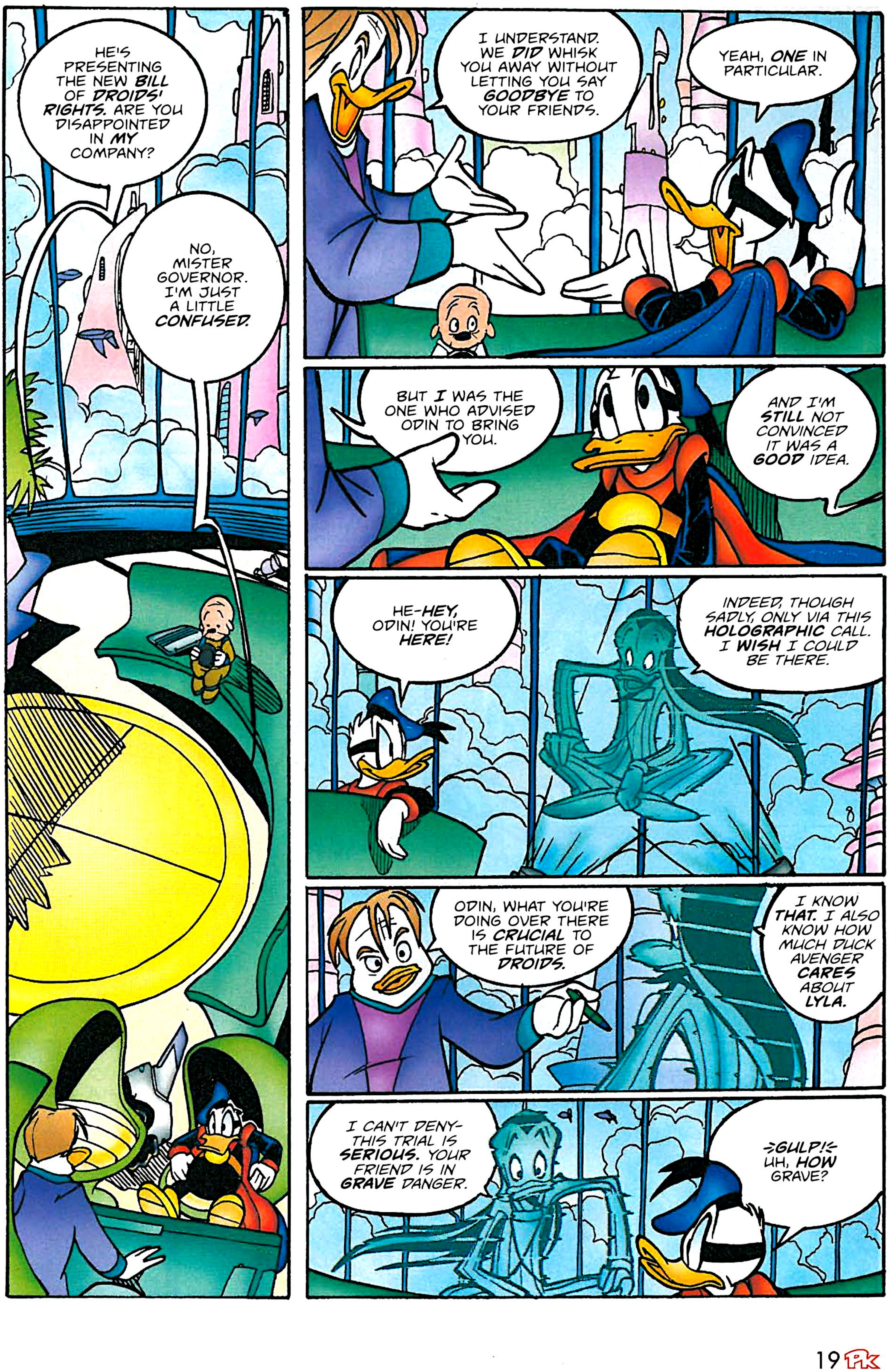

THE BIG GUY SUDDENLY CHANGED INTO SOMEONE ELSE. TH-THEN THIS AGENT APPEARED...AND THEN...
CALM DOWN, LYLA. WHO DID THAT BRUTE CHANGE INTO?
SOMEONE...WITH NO FACE!
?
I'M SORRY, AVENGER, BUT I NEED TO TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY.
HEY, HOLD YOUR HORSES, BUDDY! CAN'TCHA SEE LYLA'S IN SHOCK?
YES, AND WE HAVE AN OFFICER DOWN, AND I DON'T DETECT THE FUGITIVES' TRACE ANYWHERE! THEY'RE GONE!
WELL, DETECT THIS, BUCKETHEAD!
NO, AVENGER! HE'S RIGHT. I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS TIME, AND I SHOT ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES.
BUT, I-IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! A MISTAKE-
LIKE HUMANS MAKE? NO, AVENGER. I'M NOT PROGRAMMED TO MAKE MISTAKES.

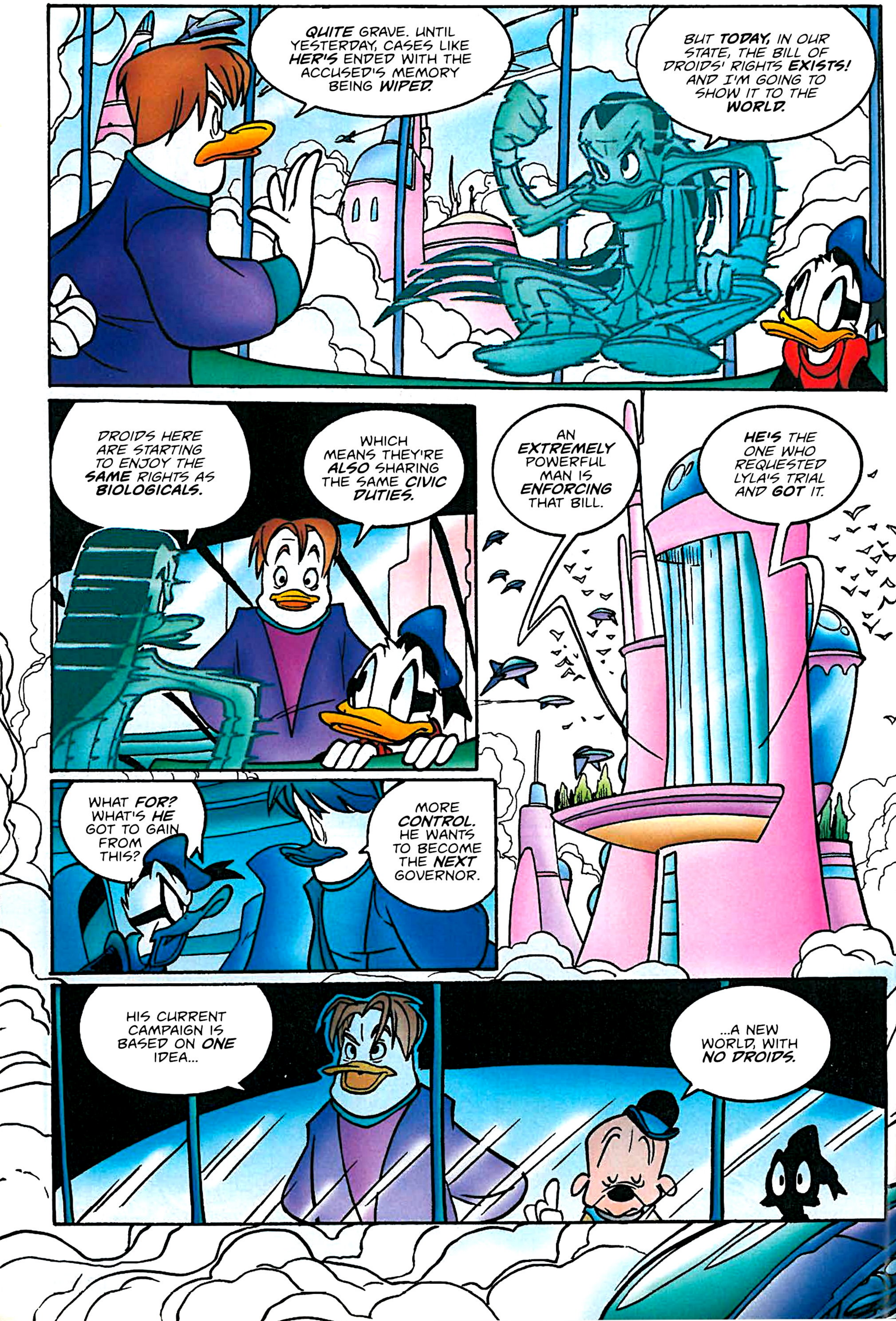

BUT THANKS FOR TRYING TO STICK UP FOR ME.
LYLA, PLEASE! WAIT-
...A MINUTE.
DARN! NOW WHAT? WHAT'LL THEY DO TO HER IN THE FUTURE?
I THINK I CAN ANSWER THAT.
EH? AND WHO ARE YOU?
GREETINGS! I'M EUGENE PHOTOMAS, ATTORNEY AT LAW.
FRAGILE
AND I'M VERY... ER, VERY... OH, WHAT IS IT? VERY...
UH, HAPPY? EXCITED? FLATTERED?

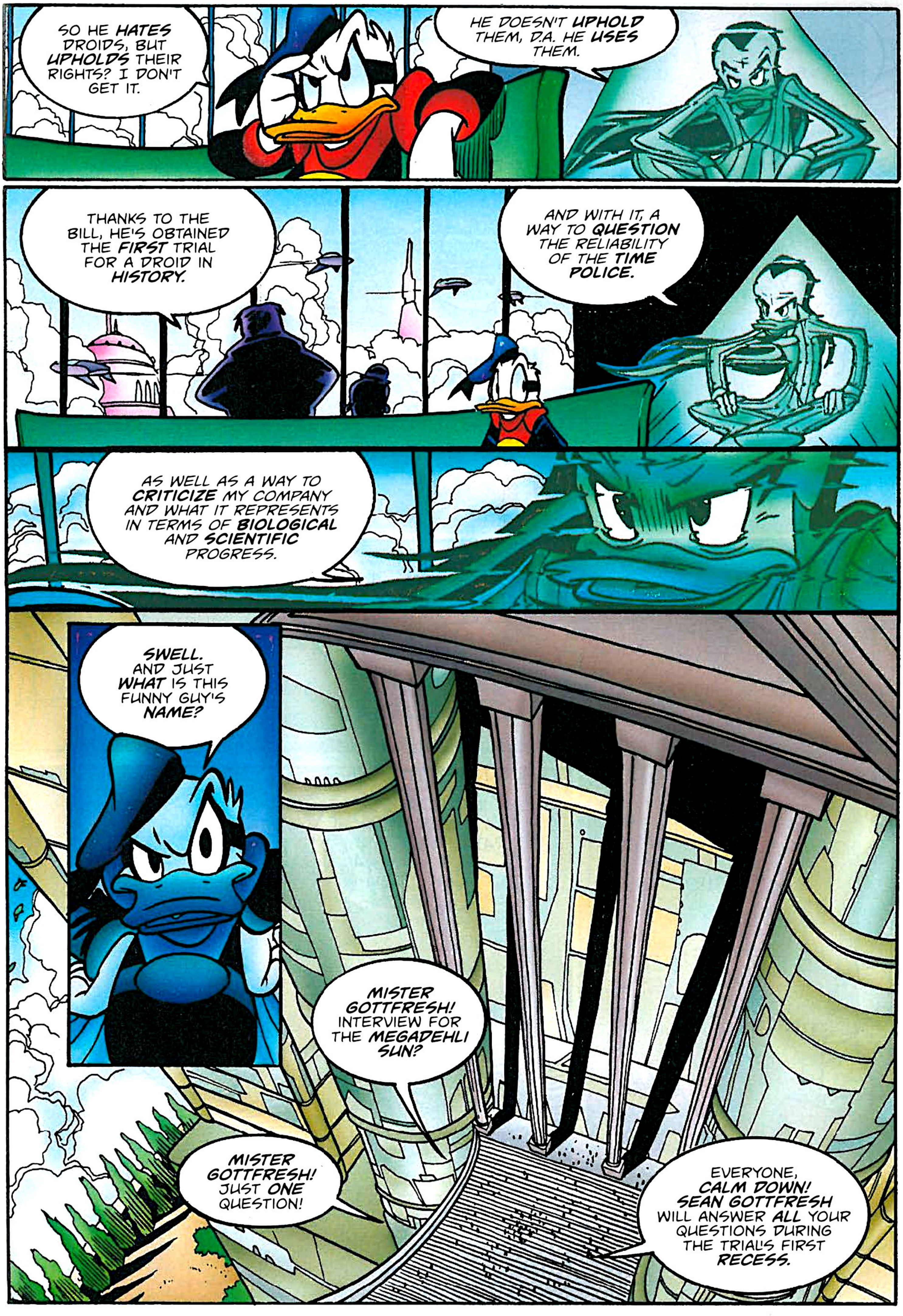

THAT'S IT! THE **LAST** THING YOU SAID! I'M **FLATTERED** TO MEET YOU. EXCUSE ME, SOMETIMES I DON'T REMEMBER THE RIGHT, UM, **THINGS.**
WORDS. YOU MEAN WORDS. HMM. YOU'RE A **LAWYER,** HUH?
PHOTO
ORNEY
THAT'S **RIGHT.** I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE AT THIS VERY **MOMENT,** MISTER... DUCK **REVENGER,** WAS IT?
DUCK **AVENGER.** THE REVENGER IS MY CAR. SO WHAT'S **YOUR** DEAL? ARE YOU FROM THE **FUTURE?**
THE **23RD CENTURY,** TO BE EXACT. YOUR FRIEND AND **-AHEM!-** BIGGEST **FAN** SENT ME.
YOU MEAN **ODIN EIDOLON?**
THE MAN **HIMSELF.** HE BELIEVES YOUR TESTIMONY IS **VITAL** TO OUR-
SAY WHAAAT? WHO SAID I HAD TO **TESTIFY?**
EH? D-DID I NOT **TELL** YOU? SORRY. AS I'VE SAID, I'M QUITE **FORGETFUL.**
YOUR FRIEND LYLA LEE IS ON **TRIAL,** AND I'M HER **DEFENSE** ATTORNEY.

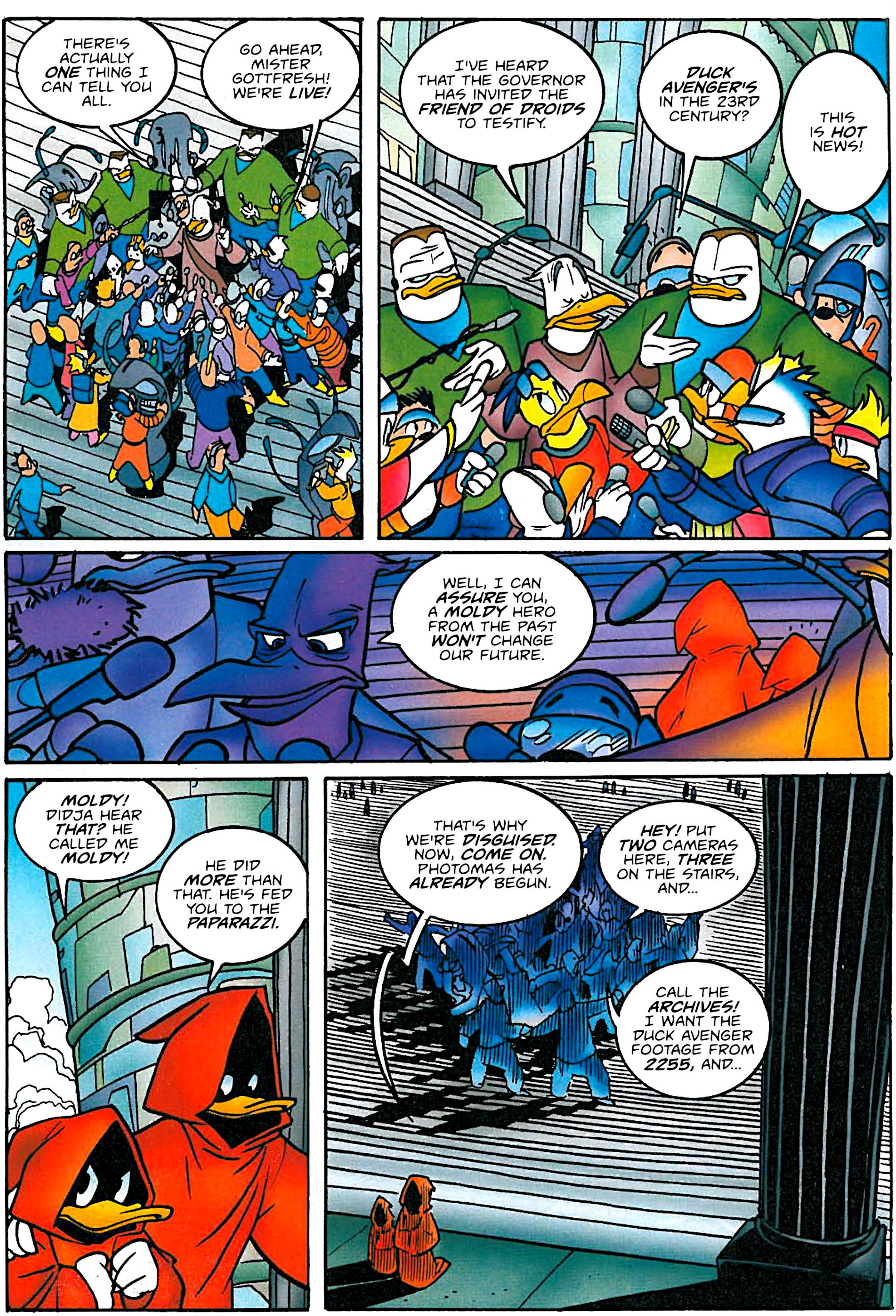

"IT IS *TIME,* LYLA- *ONLY* TIME, THAT WILL REVEAL IT ALL."
"YOU WILL SOON REALIZE THAT YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER LEAVES, AT THE *MERCY* OF THE WIND."
"YOU WILL FINALLY TASTE THE ESSENCE... OF *MEMORIES."*
NUTS! I'M DRAWING A TOTAL *BLANK* HERE!
DON'T WORRY, MISTER PHOTOMAS. LEMME *HELP.* YOU JUST TOOK ME ON A LITTLE JAUNT THROUGH *TIME,* RIGHT?
YES. *THREE* CENTURIES, TO BE EXACT.
AND IT AIN'T *EASY* TO COME AND GO FROM *2258.*
NO, BUT WITH THESE NEW *PORTABLE* TIME TRANSPONDERS, IT'S ALMOST A *BREEZE.*
JUST REMEMBER TO RELAY THE RIGHT COORDINATES TO THE *CHRONO-STATION...*
...AND *PRESTO CHANGE-O!*

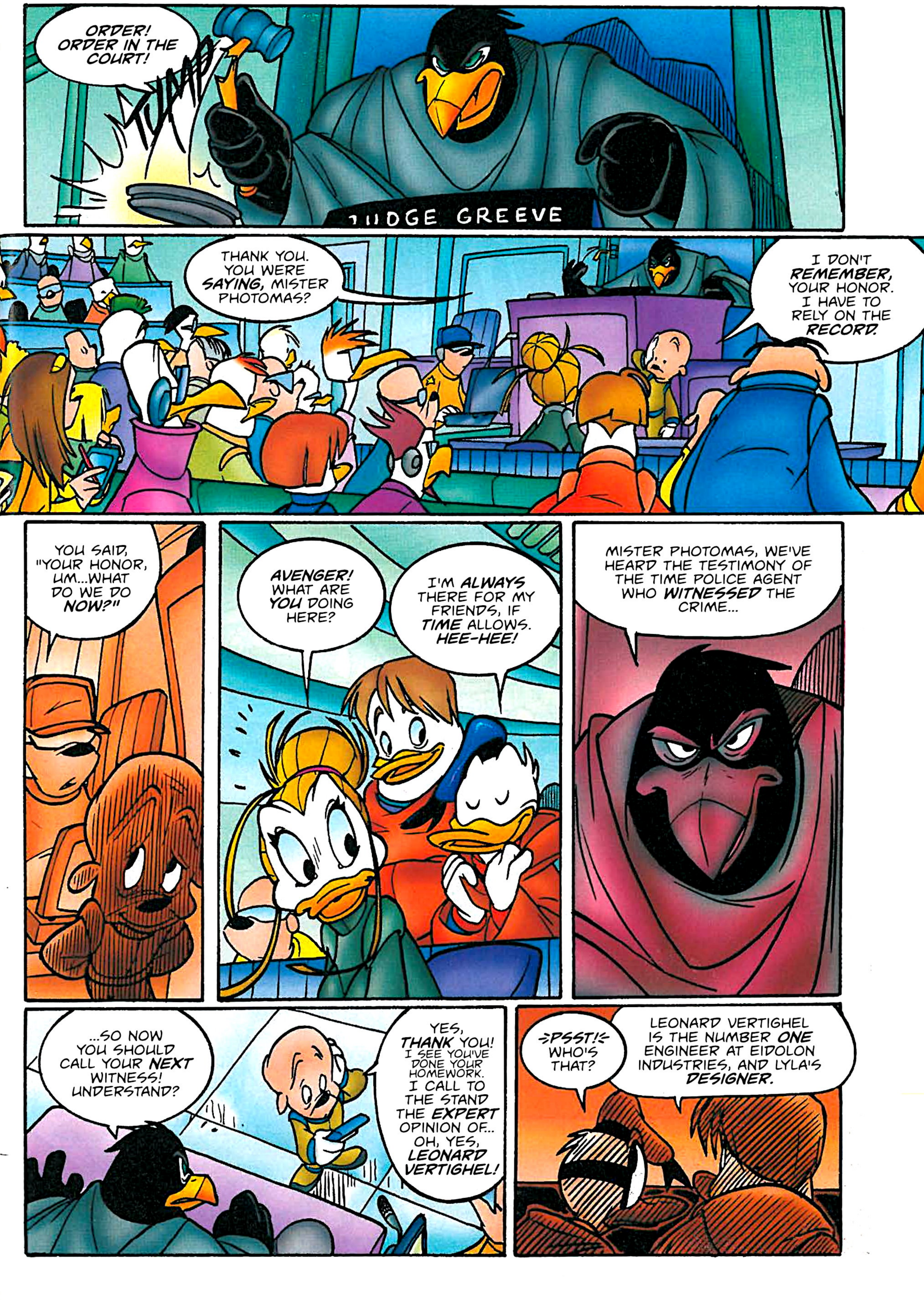

YOU CAN REMEMBER ALL THAT, AND NOT WHERE YOU PARKED YOUR CAR?
PARKING
YOU TALK LIKE IT'S SIMPLE, BUT THESE PARKING LOTS ALL LOOK THE SAME!
A-HA! HERE IT IS! THIS IS DEFINITELY IT. ...AT LEAST I THINK SO.
WE'RE OFF TO MEET AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE!
IS ODIN GONNA BE THERE TOO?
CLANG
WELL, I THINK... ER, MAYBE HE... I'M SORRY, WHAT WAS THAT NAME AGAIN?
ODIN EIDOLON IS IN NEW WASHINGTON RIGHT NOW, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

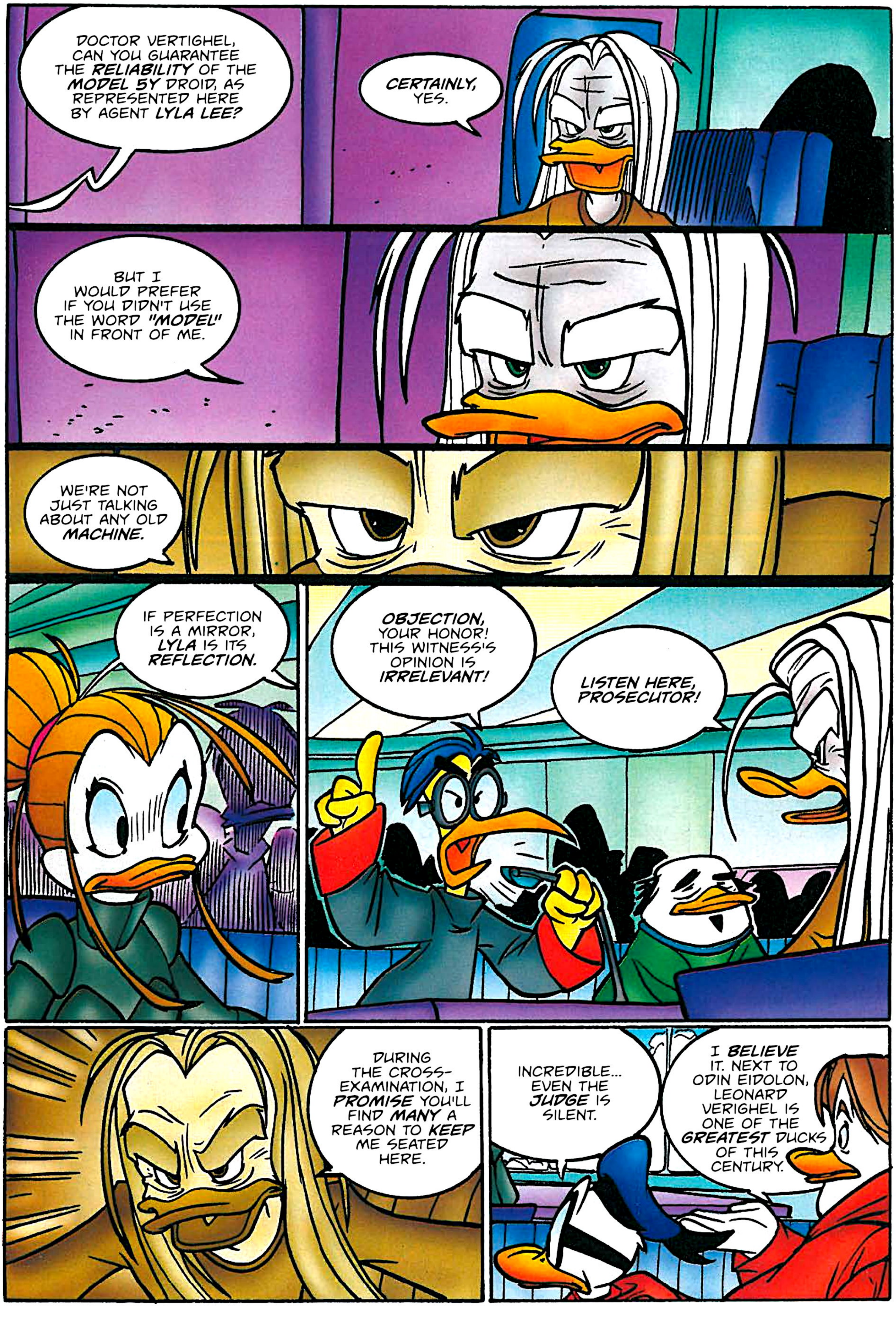

HE'S PRESENTING THE NEW BILL OF DROIDS' RIGHTS. ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED IN MY COMPANY?
NO, MISTER GOVERNOR. I'M JUST A LITTLE CONFUSED.
I UNDERSTAND. WE DID WHISK YOU AWAY WITHOUT LETTING YOU SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FRIENDS.
YEAH, ONE IN PARTICULAR.
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO ADVISED ODIN TO BRING YOU.
AND I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.
HE-HEY, ODIN! YOU'RE HERE!
INDEED, THOUGH SADLY, ONLY VIA THIS HOLOGRAPHIC CALL. I WISH I COULD BE THERE.
ODIN, WHAT YOU'RE DOING OVER THERE IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF DROIDS.
I KNOW THAT. I ALSO KNOW HOW MUCH DUCK AVENGER CARES ABOUT LYLA.
I CAN'T DENY THIS TRIAL IS SERIOUS. YOUR FRIEND IS IN GRAVE DANGER.
GULP! UH, HOW GRAVE?

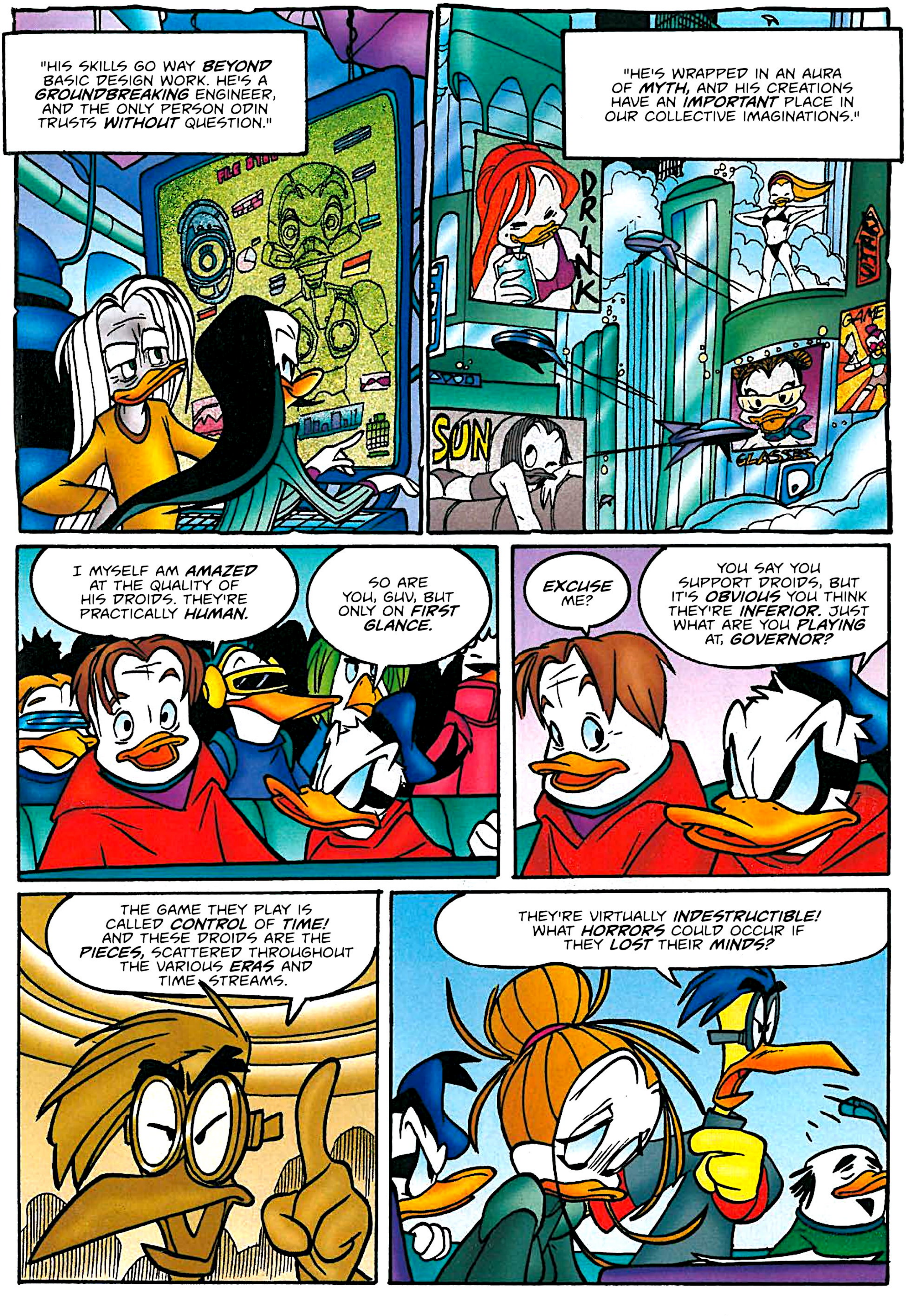

QUITE GRAVE. UNTIL YESTERDAY, CASES LIKE HER'S ENDED WITH THE ACCUSED'S MEMORY BEING WIPED.
BUT TODAY, IN OUR STATE, THE BILL OF DROIDS' RIGHTS EXISTS! AND I'M GOING TO SHOW IT TO THE WORLD.
DROIDS HERE ARE STARTING TO ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS BIOLOGICALS.
WHICH MEANS THEY'RE ALSO SHARING THE SAME CIVIC DUTIES.
AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL MAN IS ENFORCING THAT BILL.
HE'S THE ONE WHO REQUESTED LYLA'S TRIAL AND GOT IT.
WHAT FOR? WHAT'S HE GOT TO GAIN FROM THIS?
MORE CONTROL. HE WANTS TO BECOME THE NEXT GOVERNOR.
HIS CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS BASED ON ONE IDEA...
...A NEW WORLD, WITH NO DROIDS.

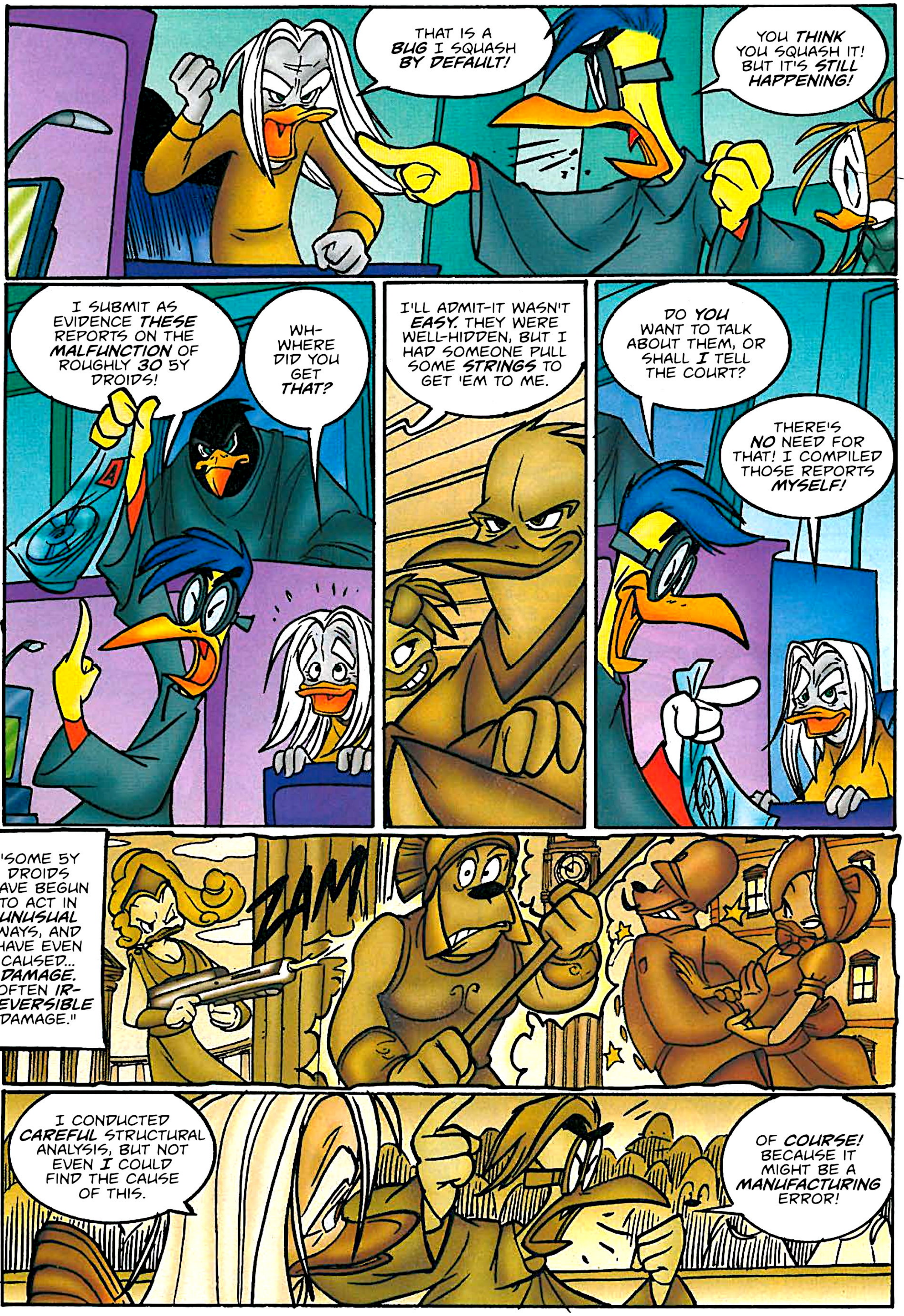

SO HE **HATES** DROIDS, BUT **UPHOLDS** THEIR RIGHTS? I DON'T GET IT.
HE DOESN'T **UPHOLD** THEM, D.A. HE **USES** THEM.
THANKS TO THE BILL, HE'S OBTAINED THE *FIRST* TRIAL FOR A DROID IN *HISTORY.*
AND WITH IT, A WAY TO **QUESTION** THE RELIABILITY OF THE **TIME POLICE.**
*AS WELL AS A WAY TO **CRITICIZE** MY COMPANY AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS IN TERMS OF **BIOLOGICAL** AND **SCIENTIFIC** PROGRESS.*
SWELL. AND JUST ***WHAT*** IS THIS FUNNY GUY'S ***NAME?***
MISTER GOTTFRESH! INTERVIEW FOR THE ***MEGADEHLI SUN?***
MISTER GOTTFRESH! JUST ***ONE*** QUESTION!
EVERYONE, ***CALM DOWN! SEAN GOTTFRESH*** WILL ANSWER ***ALL*** YOUR QUESTIONS DURING THE TRIAL'S FIRST ***RECESS.***

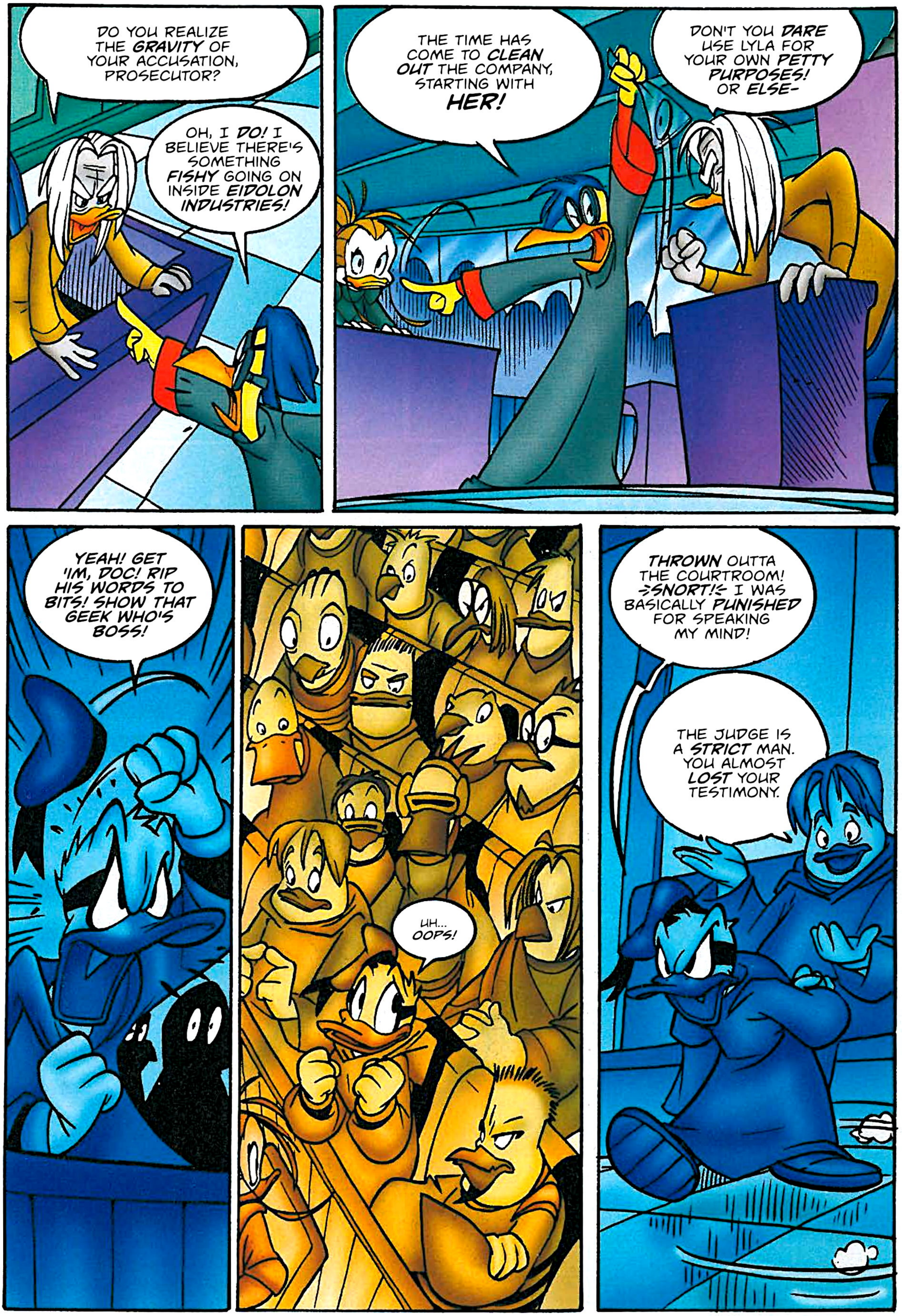

THERE'S ACTUALLY **ONE** THING I CAN TELL YOU ALL.
GO AHEAD, MISTER GOTTFRESH! WE'RE ***LIVE!***
I'VE HEARD THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS INVITED THE ***FRIEND OF DROIDS*** TO TESTIFY.
DUCK AVENGER'S IN THE 23RD CENTURY?
THIS IS **HOT** NEWS!
WELL, I CAN ***ASSURE*** YOU, A ***MOLDY*** HERO FROM THE PAST ***WON'T*** CHANGE OUR FUTURE.
MOLDY! DIDJA HEAR ***THAT?*** HE CALLED ME ***MOLDY!***
HE DID ***MORE*** THAN THAT. HE'S FED YOU TO THE ***PAPARAZZI.***
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ***DISGUISED.*** NOW, ***COME ON.*** PHOTOMAS HAS ***ALREADY*** BEGUN.
HEY! PUT ***TWO*** CAMERAS HERE, ***THREE*** ON THE STAIRS, AND...
CALL THE ***ARCHIVES!*** I WANT THE DUCK AVENGER FOOTAGE FROM ***2255,*** AND...

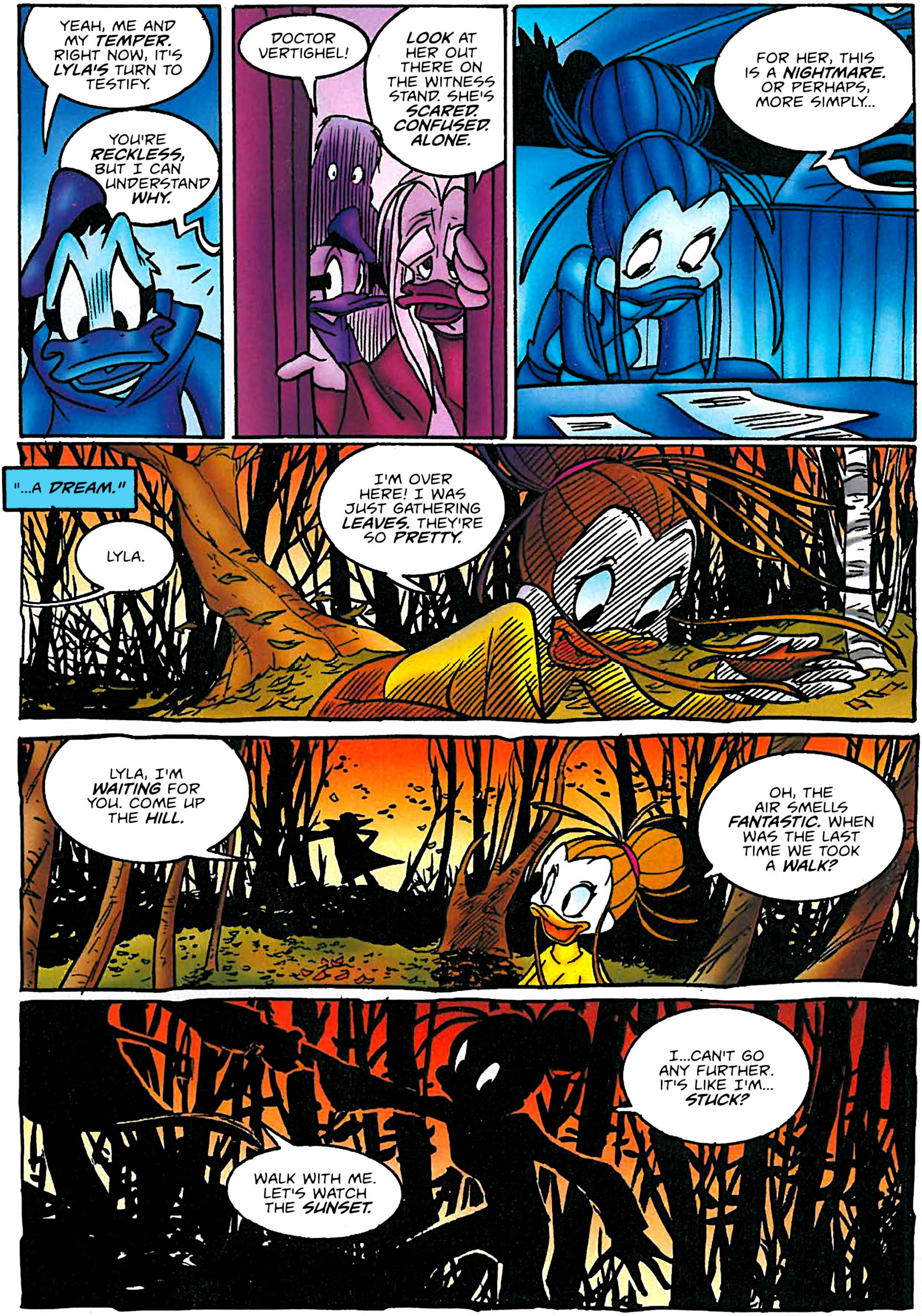

ORDER! ORDER IN THE COURT!
TUMP
JUDGE GREEVE
THANK YOU. YOU WERE SAYING, MISTER PHOTOMAS?
I DON'T REMEMBER, YOUR HONOR. I HAVE TO RELY ON THE RECORD.
YOU SAID, "YOUR HONOR, UM...WHAT DO WE DO NOW?"
AVENGER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M ALWAYS THERE FOR MY FRIENDS, IF TIME ALLOWS. HEE-HEE!
MISTER PHOTOMAS, WE'VE HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF THE TIME POLICE AGENT WHO WITNESSED THE CRIME...
...SO NOW YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR NEXT WITNESS! UNDERSTAND?
YES, THANK YOU! I SEE YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK. I CALL TO THE STAND THE EXPERT OPINION OF... OH, YES, LEONARD VERTIGHEL!
>PSST!< WHO'S THAT?
LEONARD VERTIGHEL IS THE NUMBER ONE ENGINEER AT EIDOLON INDUSTRIES, AND LYLA'S DESIGNER.

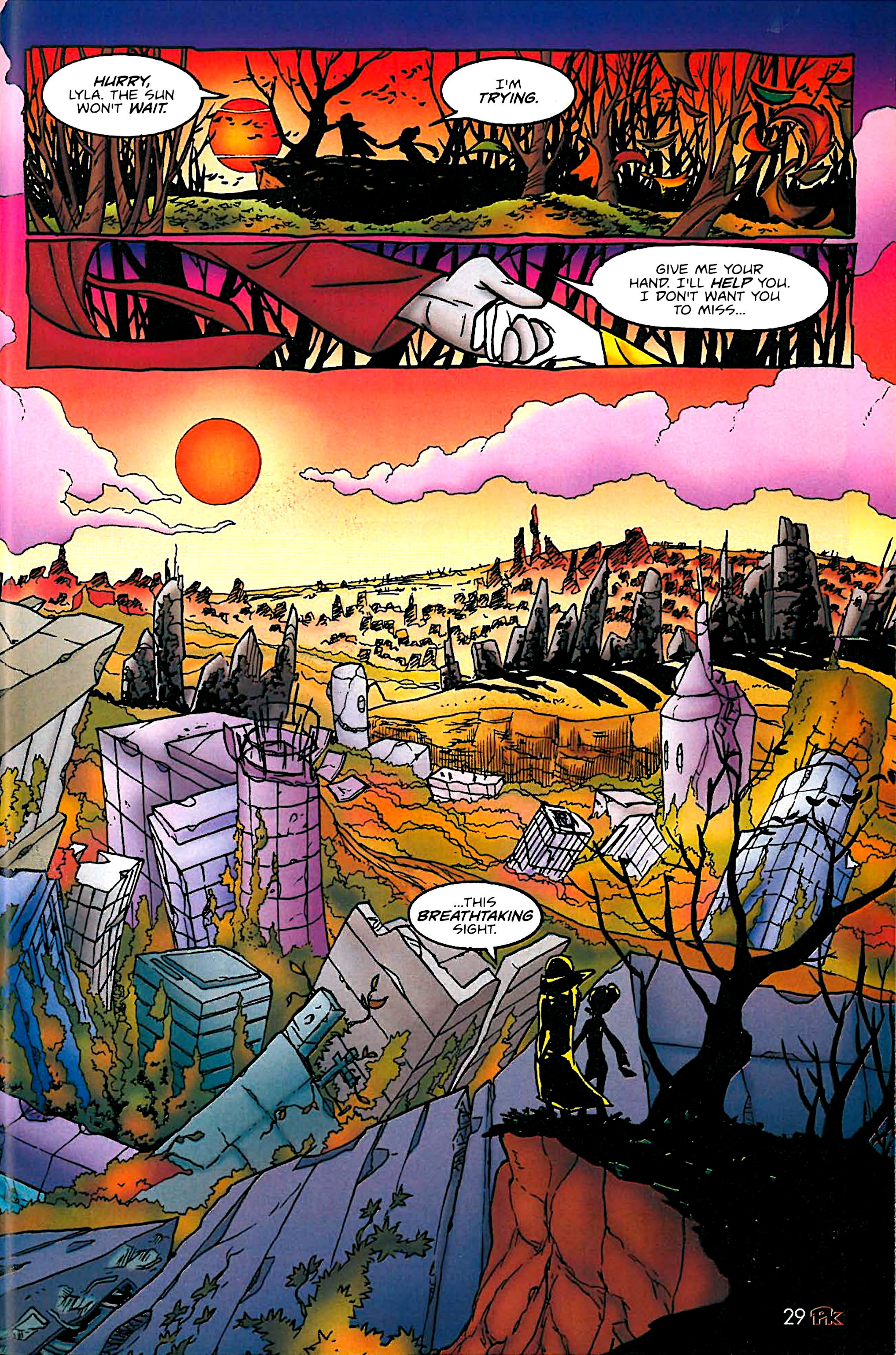

DOCTOR VERTIGHEL, CAN YOU GUARANTEE THE **RELIABILITY** OF THE **MODEL 5Y** DROID, AS REPRESENTED HERE BY AGENT **LYLA LEE?**
CERTAINLY, YES.
BUT I WOULD PREFER IF YOU DIDN'T USE THE WORD **"MODEL"** IN FRONT OF ME.
WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT ANY OLD **MACHINE.**
IF PERFECTION IS A MIRROR, **LYLA** IS ITS **REFLECTION.**
OBJECTION, YOUR HONOR! THIS WITNESS'S OPINION IS **IRRELEVANT!**
LISTEN HERE, PROSECUTOR!
DURING THE CROSS-EXAMINATION, I **PROMISE** YOU'LL FIND **MANY** A REASON TO **KEEP** ME SEATED HERE.
INCREDIBLE... EVEN THE **JUDGE** IS SILENT.
I **BELIEVE** IT. NEXT TO ODIN EIDOLON, LEONARD VERIGHEL IS ONE OF THE **GREATEST** DUCKS OF THIS CENTURY.

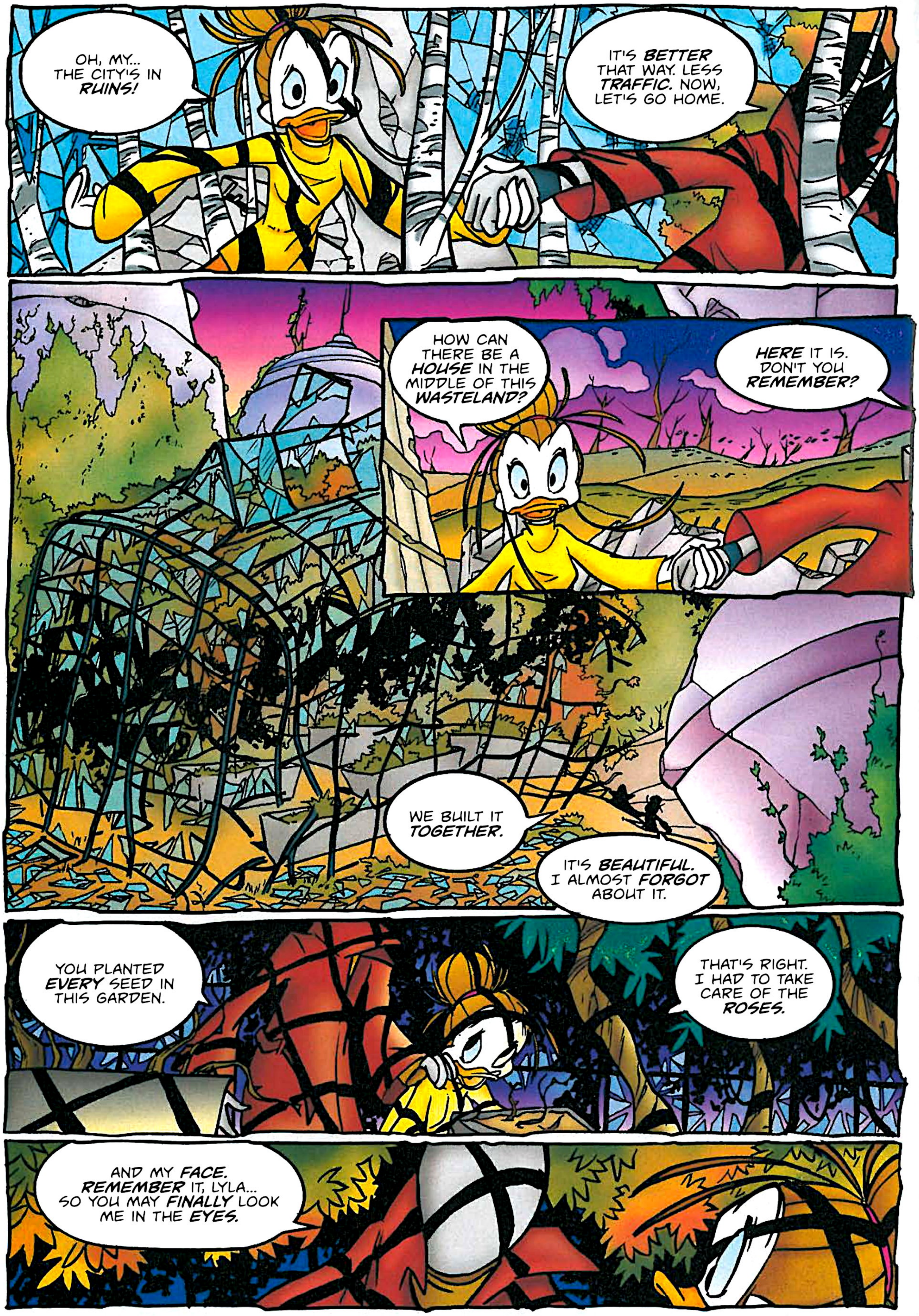

"HIS SKILLS GO WAY *BEYOND* BASIC DESIGN WORK. HE'S A *GROUNDBREAKING* ENGINEER, AND THE ONLY PERSON ODIN TRUSTS *WITHOUT* QUESTION."
"HE'S WRAPPED IN AN AURA OF *MYTH*, AND HIS CREATIONS HAVE AN *IMPORTANT* PLACE IN OUR COLLECTIVE IMAGINATIONS."
DRINK
SUN
GAME
GLASSES
I MYSELF AM *AMAZED* AT THE QUALITY OF HIS DROIDS. THEY'RE PRACTICALLY *HUMAN*.
SO ARE YOU, GUV, BUT ONLY ON *FIRST GLANCE*.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU SAY YOU SUPPORT DROIDS, BUT IT'S *OBVIOUS* YOU THINK THEY'RE *INFERIOR*. JUST WHAT ARE YOU *PLAYING* AT, *GOVERNOR?*
THE GAME THEY PLAY IS CALLED *CONTROL* OF *TIME!* AND THESE DROIDS ARE THE *PIECES*, SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE VARIOUS *ERAS* AND TIME STREAMS.
THEY'RE VIRTUALLY *INDESTRUCTIBLE!* WHAT *HORRORS* COULD OCCUR IF THEY *LOST* THEIR *MINDS?*

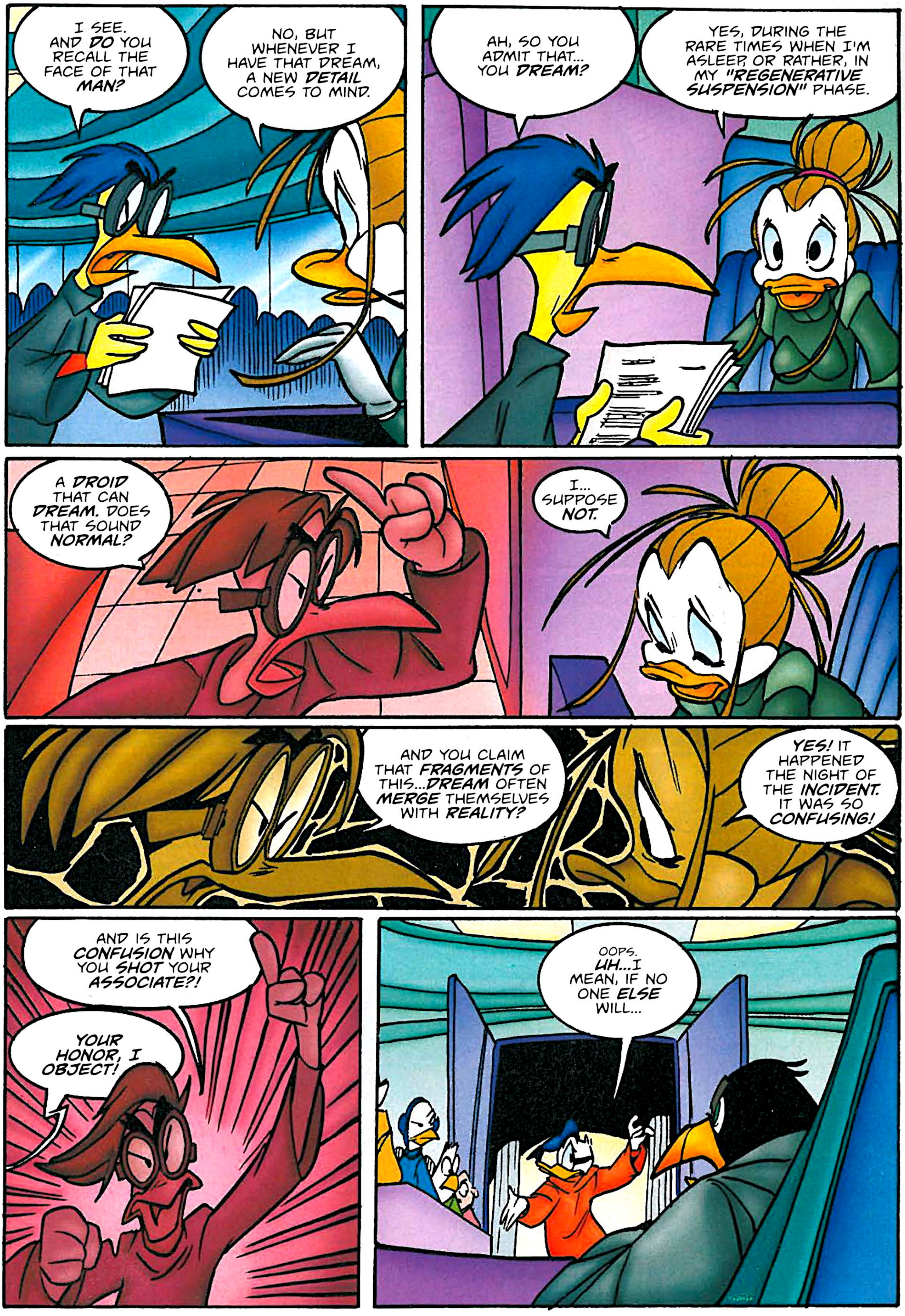

THAT IS A BUG I SQUASH BY DEFAULT!
YOU THINK YOU SQUASH IT! BUT IT'S STILL HAPPENING!
I SUBMIT AS EVIDENCE THESE REPORTS ON THE MALFUNCTION OF ROUGHLY 30 5Y DROIDS!
WH- WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
A
I'LL ADMIT-IT WASN'T EASY. THEY WERE WELL-HIDDEN, BUT I HAD SOMEONE PULL SOME STRINGS TO GET 'EM TO ME.
DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEM, OR SHALL I TELL THE COURT?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT! I COMPILED THOSE REPORTS MYSELF!
"SOME 5Y DROIDS HAVE BEGUN TO ACT IN UNUSUAL WAYS, AND HAVE EVEN CAUSED... DAMAGE. OFTEN IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE."
ZAM
I CONDUCTED CAREFUL STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS, BUT NOT EVEN I COULD FIND THE CAUSE OF THIS.
OF COURSE! BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE A MANUFACTURING ERROR!

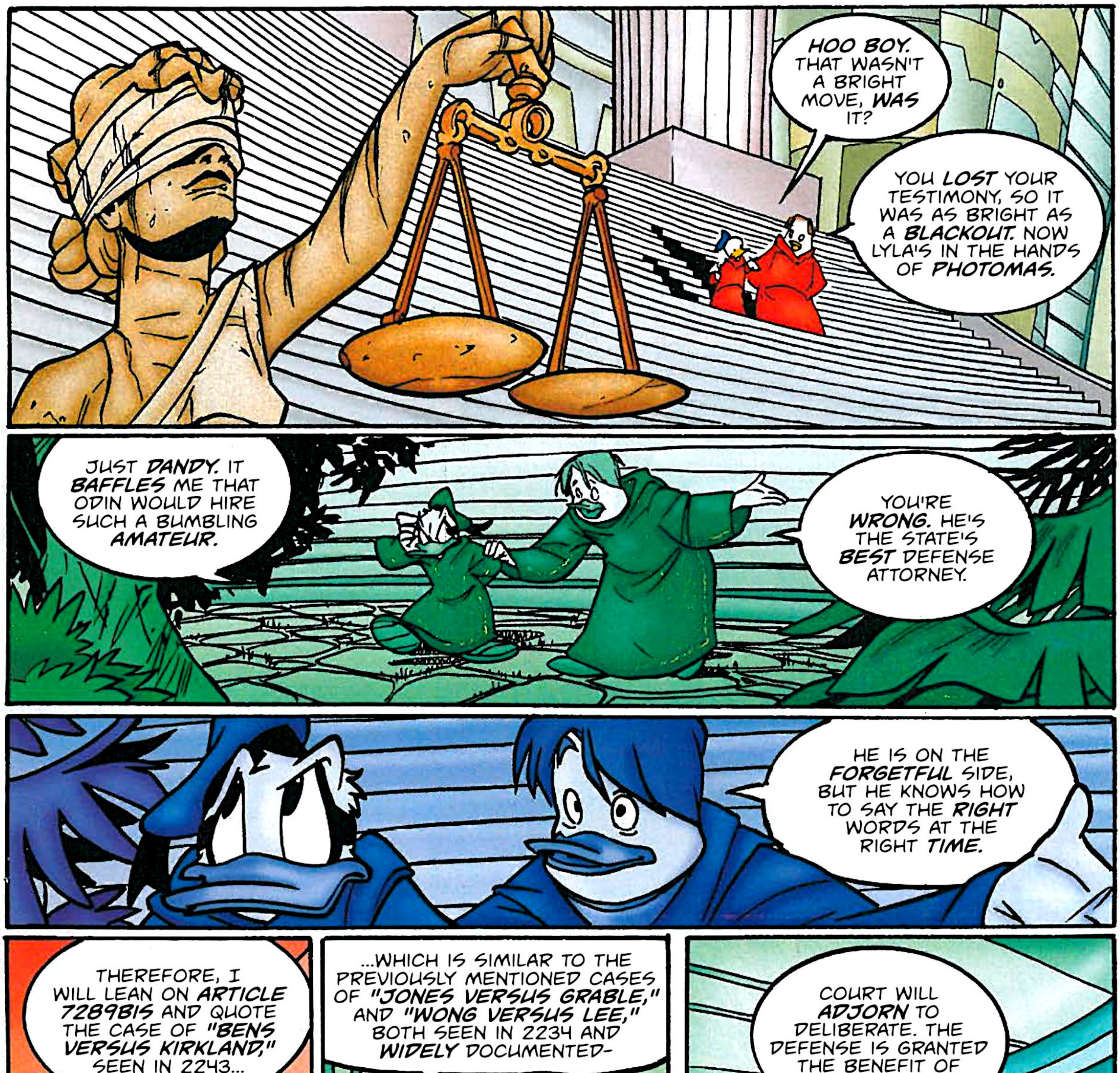

DO YOU REALIZE THE GRAVITY OF YOUR ACCUSATION, PROSECUTOR?
OH, I DO! I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON INSIDE EIDOLON INDUSTRIES!
THE TIME HAS COME TO CLEAN OUT THE COMPANY, STARTING WITH HER!
DON'T YOU DARE USE LYLA FOR YOUR OWN PETTY PURPOSES! OR ELSE-
YEAH! GET 'IM, DOC! RIP HIS WORDS TO BITS! SHOW THAT GEEK WHO'S BOSS!
UH... OOPS!
THROWN OUTTA THE COURTROOM! ⪢SNORT!⪡ I WAS BASICALLY PUNISHED FOR SPEAKING MY MIND!
THE JUDGE IS A STRICT MAN. YOU ALMOST LOST YOUR TESTIMONY.

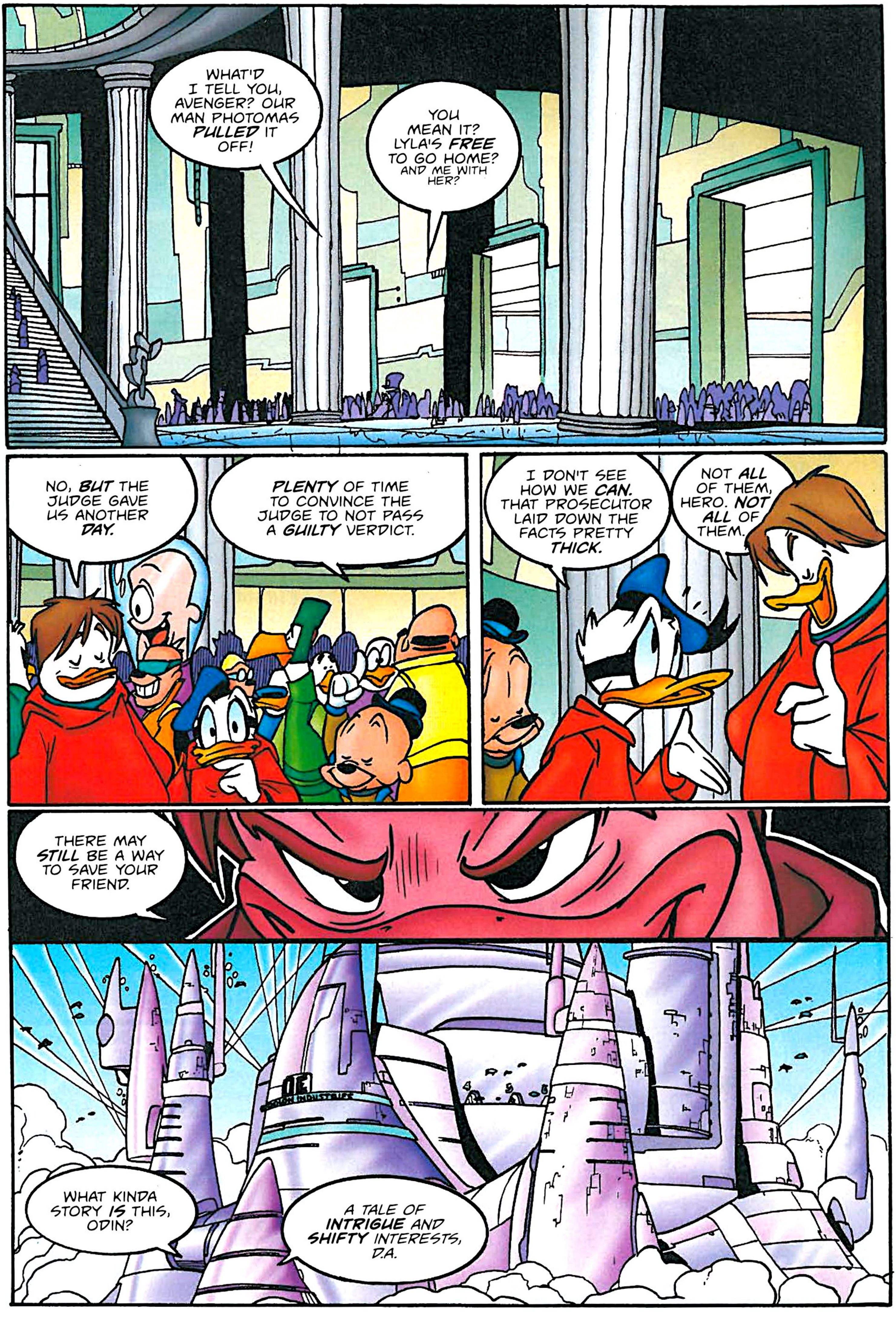

YEAH, ME AND MY **TEMPER.** RIGHT NOW, IT'S **LYLA'S** TURN TO TESTIFY.
YOU'RE **RECKLESS,** BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND **WHY.**
DOCTOR VERTIGHEL!
LOOK AT HER OUT THERE ON THE WITNESS STAND. SHE'S **SCARED. CONFUSED. ALONE.**
FOR HER, THIS IS A **NIGHTMARE.** OR PERHAPS, MORE SIMPLY...
"...A **DREAM.**"
LYLA.
I'M OVER HERE! I WAS JUST GATHERING **LEAVES.** THEY'RE SO **PRETTY.**
LYLA, I'M **WAITING** FOR YOU. COME UP THE **HILL.**
OH, THE AIR SMELLS **FANTASTIC.** WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE TOOK A **WALK?**
I...CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER. IT'S LIKE I'M... **STUCK?**
WALK WITH ME. LET'S WATCH THE **SUNSET.**

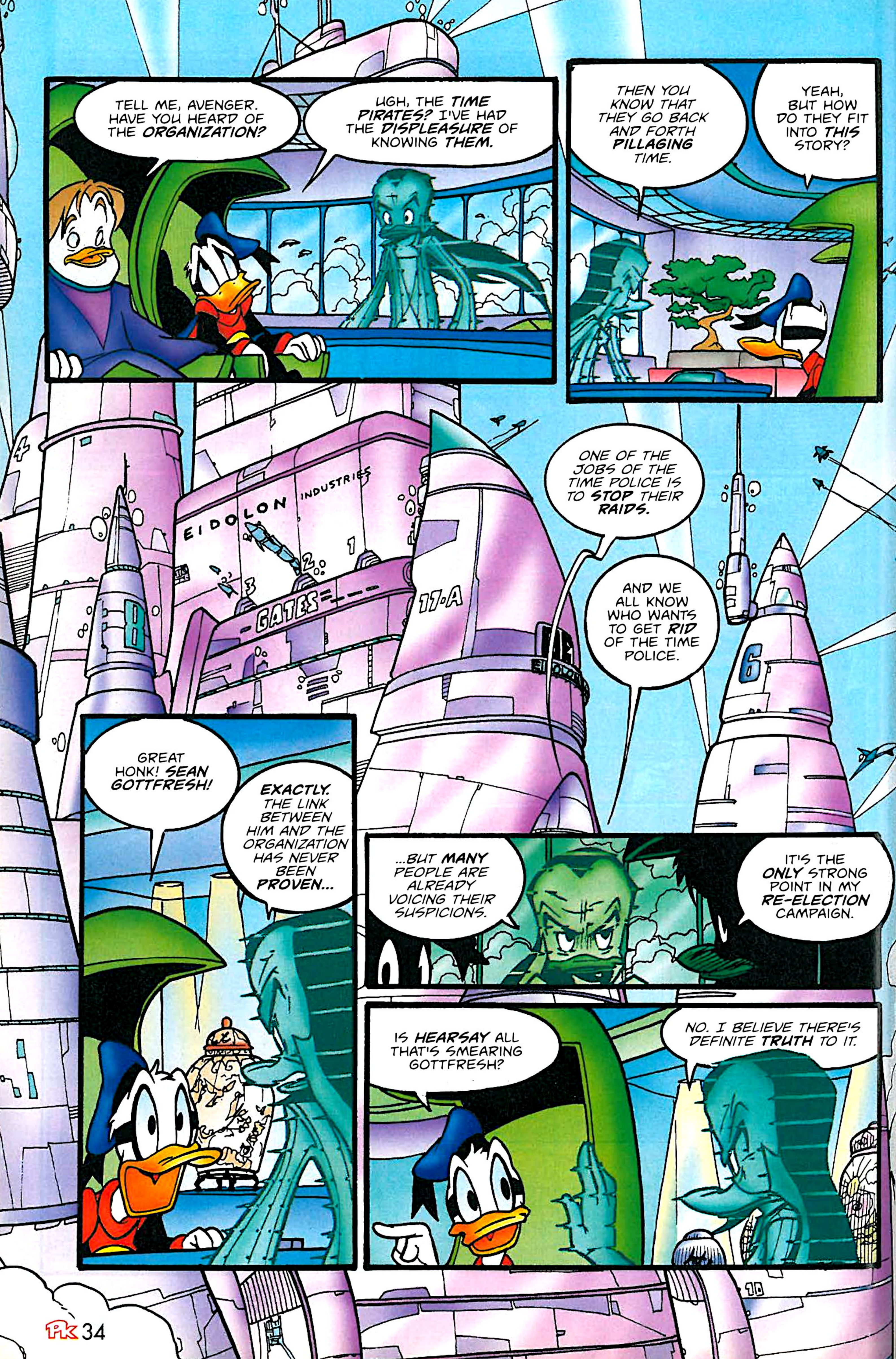

HURRY, LYLA. THE SUN WON'T WAIT.
I'M TRYING.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND. I'LL HELP YOU. I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS...
...THIS BREATHTAKING SIGHT.

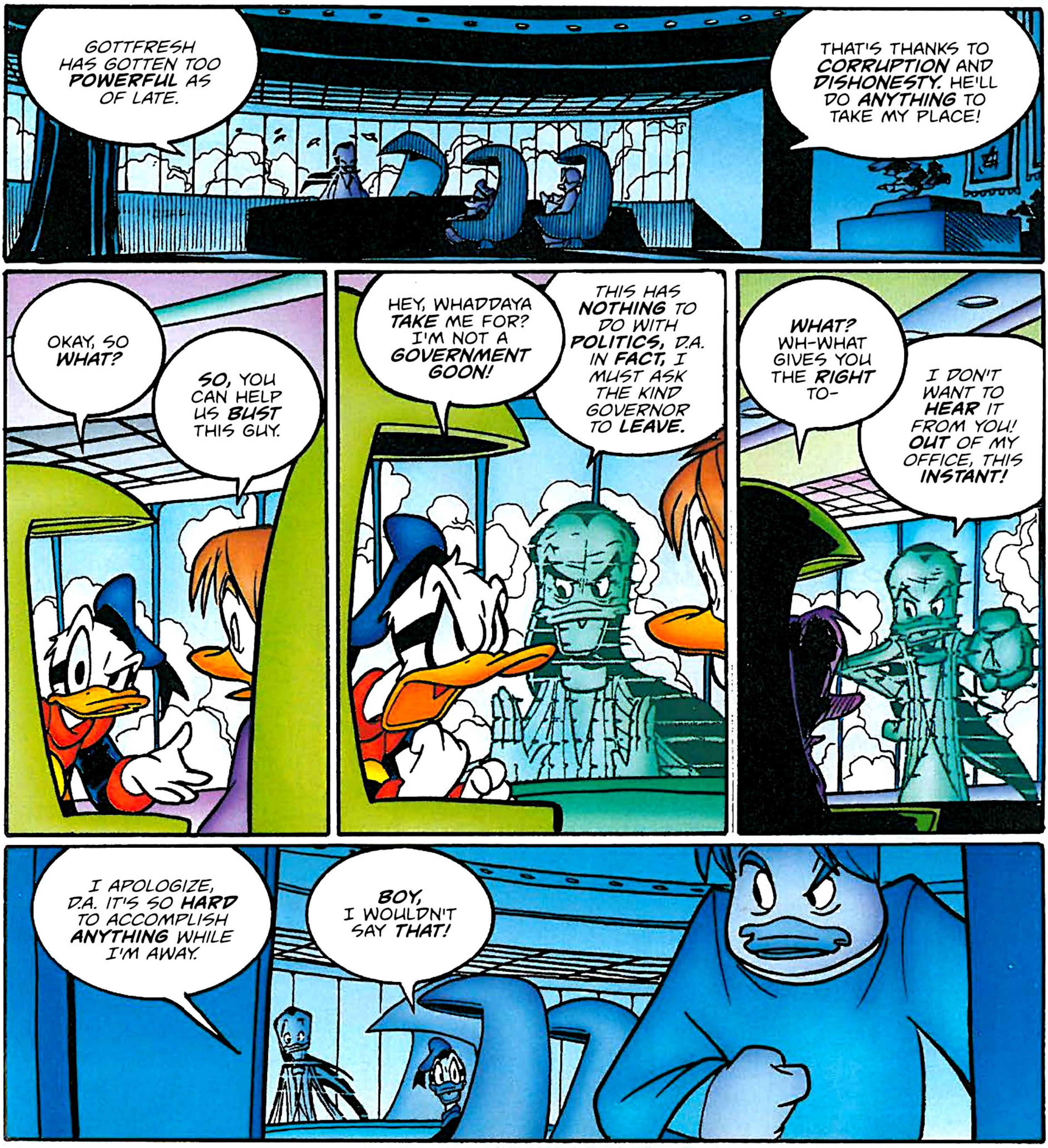

OH, MY... THE CITY'S IN *RUINS!*
IT'S *BETTER* THAT WAY. LESS *TRAFFIC.* NOW, LET'S GO HOME.
HOW CAN THERE BE A *HOUSE* IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS *WASTELAND?*
HERE IT IS. DON'T YOU *REMEMBER?*
WE BUILT IT *TOGETHER.*
IT'S *BEAUTIFUL.* I ALMOST *FORGOT* ABOUT IT.
YOU PLANTED *EVERY* SEED IN THIS GARDEN.
THAT'S RIGHT. I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF THE *ROSES.*
AND MY *FACE.* *REMEMBER* IT, LYLA... SO YOU MAY *FINALLY* LOOK ME IN THE *EYES.*

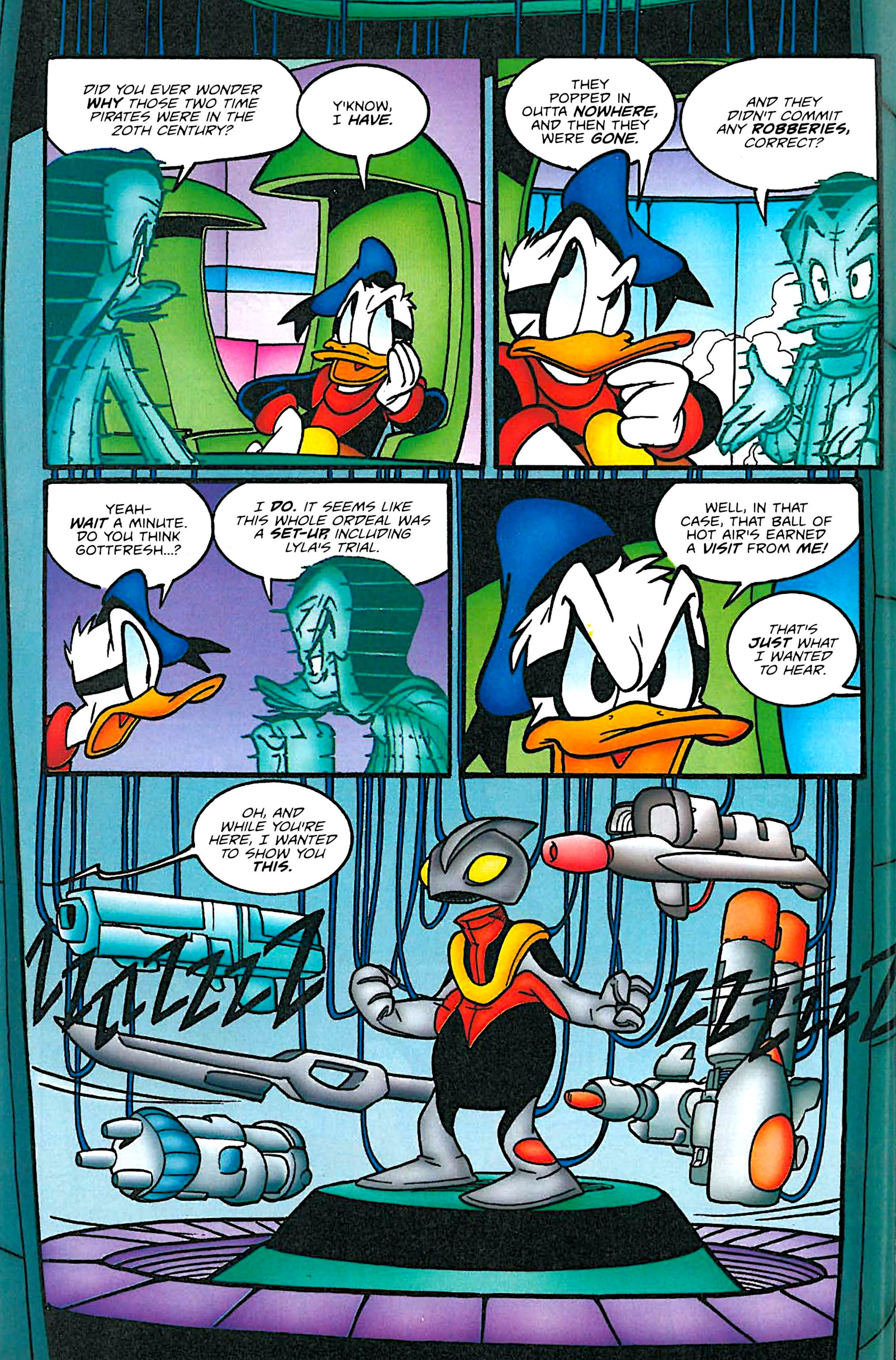

I SEE. AND **DO** YOU RECALL THE FACE OF THAT **MAN?**
NO, BUT WHENEVER I HAVE THAT DREAM, A NEW **DETAIL** COMES TO MIND.
AH, SO YOU ADMIT THAT... YOU **DREAM?**
YES, DURING THE RARE TIMES WHEN I'M ASLEEP, OR RATHER, IN MY **"REGENERATIVE SUSPENSION"** PHASE.
A **DROID** THAT CAN **DREAM.** DOES THAT SOUND **NORMAL?**
I... SUPPOSE **NOT.**
AND YOU CLAIM THAT **FRAGMENTS** OF THIS...**DREAM** OFTEN **MERGE** THEMSELVES WITH **REALITY?**
YES! IT HAPPENED THE NIGHT OF THE **INCIDENT.** IT WAS SO **CONFUSING!**
AND IS THIS **CONFUSION** WHY YOU **SHOT** YOUR **ASSOCIATE?!**
YOUR HONOR, I OBJECT!
OOPS. **UH...**I MEAN, IF NO ONE **ELSE** WILL...

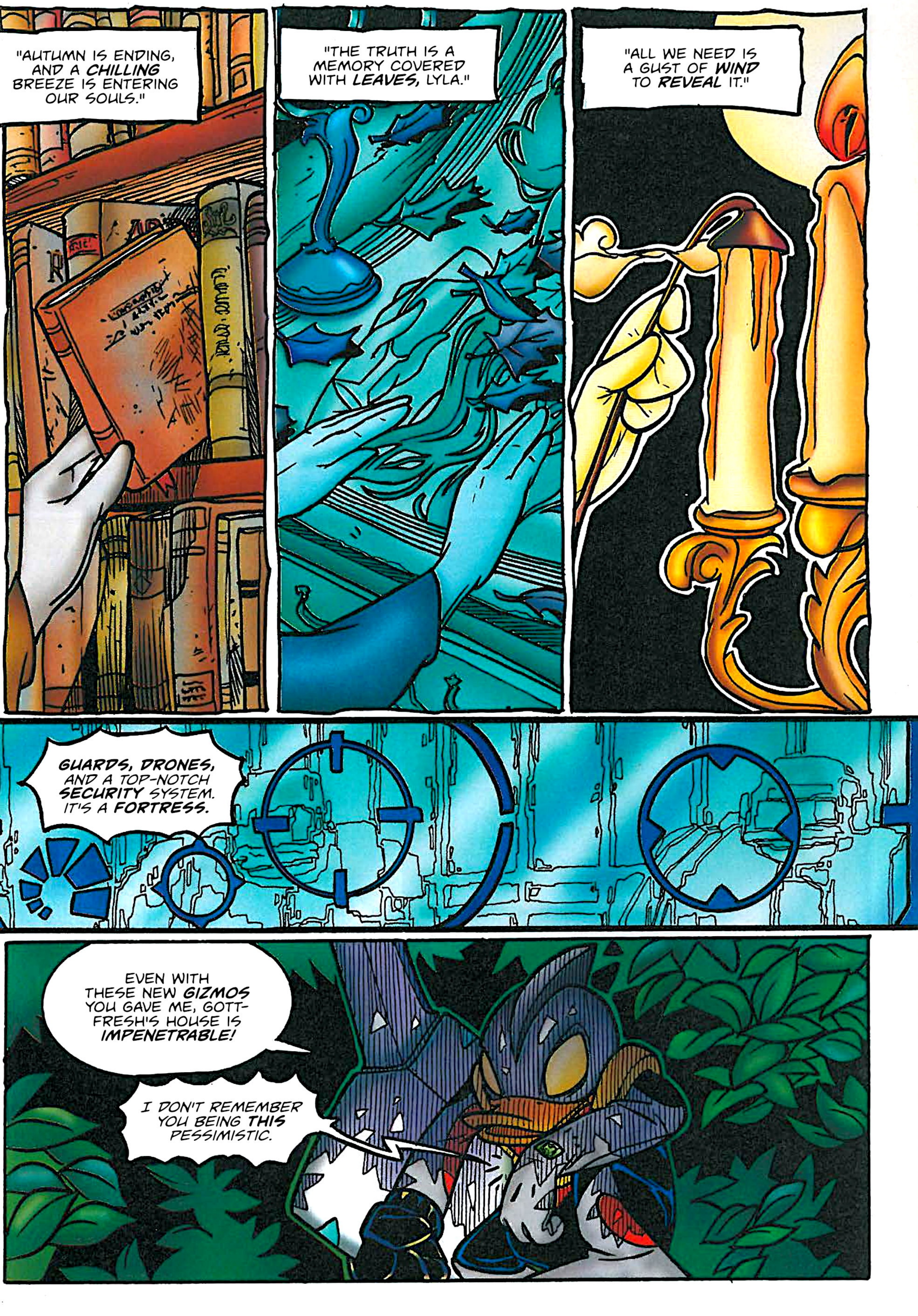

HOO BOY. THAT WASN'T A BRIGHT MOVE, WAS IT?
YOU LOST YOUR TESTIMONY, SO IT WAS AS BRIGHT AS A BLACKOUT. NOW LYLA'S IN THE HANDS OF PHOTOMAS.
JUST DANDY. IT BAFFLES ME THAT ODIN WOULD HIRE SUCH A BUMBLING AMATEUR.
YOU'RE WRONG. HE'S THE STATE'S BEST DEFENSE ATTORNEY.
HE IS ON THE FORGETFUL SIDE, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO SAY THE RIGHT WORDS AT THE RIGHT TIME.
THEREFORE, I WILL LEAN ON ARTICLE 7289BIS AND QUOTE THE CASE OF "BENS VERSUS KIRKLAND," SEEN IN 2243...
...WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED CASES OF "JONES VERSUS GRABLE," AND "WONG VERSUS LEE," BOTH SEEN IN 2234 AND WIDELY DOCUMENTED-
ALRIGHT, MISTER PHOTOMAS! I GET IT. YOU'VE BEEN BLATHERING ON THE PAST 20 MINUTES.
COURT WILL ADJORN TO DELIBERATE. THE DEFENSE IS GRANTED THE BENEFIT OF 24 HOURS!

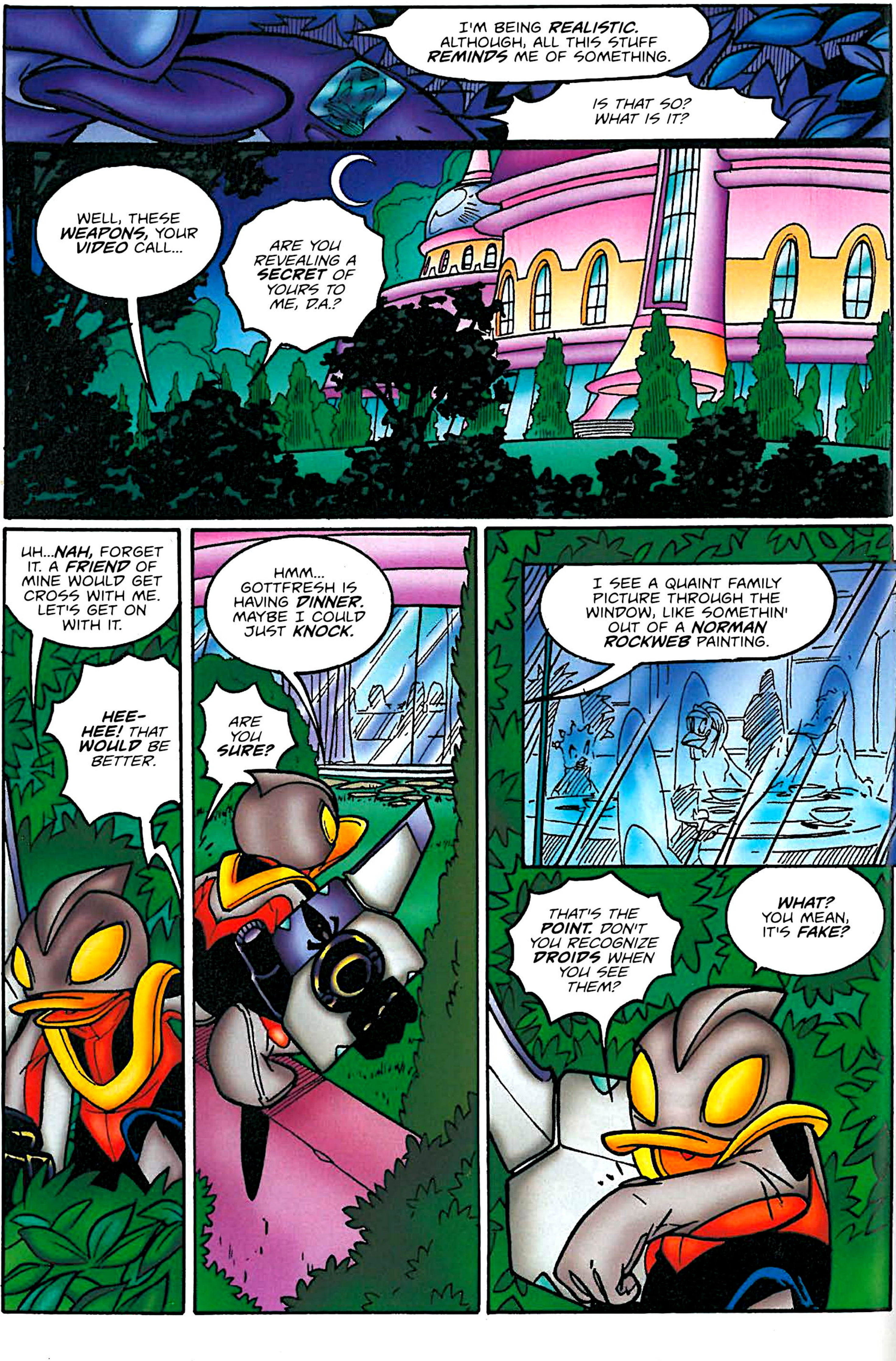

WHAT'D I TELL YOU, AVENGER? OUR MAN PHOTOMAS **PULLED** IT OFF!
YOU MEAN IT? LYLA'S **FREE** TO GO HOME? AND ME WITH HER?
NO, **BUT** THE JUDGE GAVE US ANOTHER **DAY.**
PLENTY OF TIME TO CONVINCE THE JUDGE TO NOT PASS A **GUILTY** VERDICT.
I DON'T SEE HOW WE **CAN.** THAT PROSECUTOR LAID DOWN THE FACTS PRETTY **THICK.**
NOT **ALL** OF THEM, HERO. **NOT ALL** OF THEM.
THERE MAY **STILL** BE A WAY TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.
WHAT KINDA STORY **IS** THIS, ODIN?
A TALE OF **INTRIGUE** AND **SHIFTY** INTERESTS, D.A.

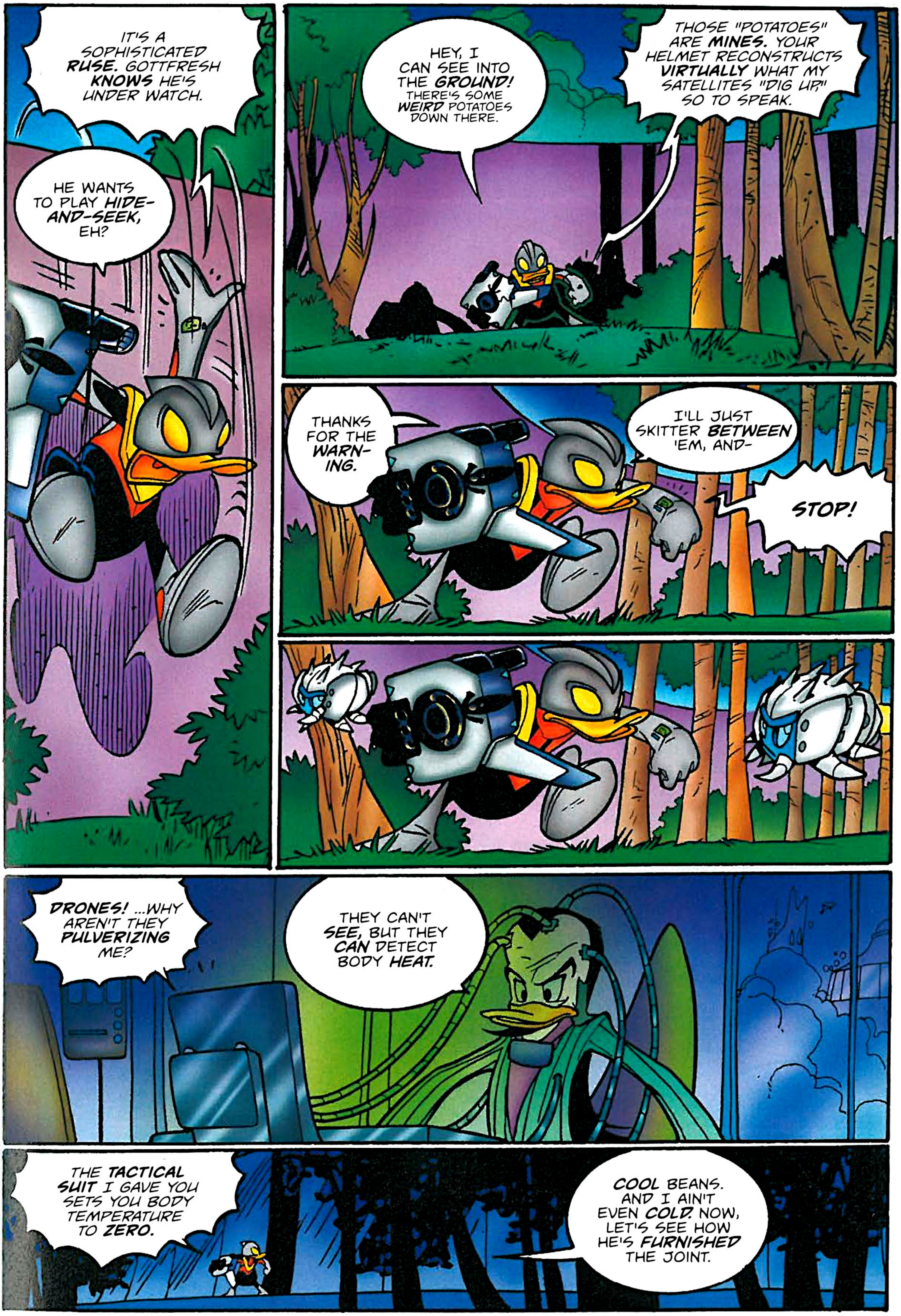

TELL ME, AVENGER. HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE ORGANIZATION?
UGH, THE TIME PIRATES? I'VE HAD THE DISPLEASURE OF KNOWING THEM.
THEN YOU KNOW THAT THEY GO BACK AND FORTH PILLAGING TIME.
YEAH, BUT HOW DO THEY FIT INTO THIS STORY?
EIDOLON INDUSTRIES
GATES
ONE OF THE JOBS OF THE TIME POLICE IS TO STOP THEIR RAIDS.
AND WE ALL KNOW WHO WANTS TO GET RID OF THE TIME POLICE.
GREAT HONK! SEAN GOTTFRESH!
EXACTLY. THE LINK BETWEEN HIM AND THE ORGANIZATION HAS NEVER BEEN PROVEN...
...BUT MANY PEOPLE ARE ALREADY VOICING THEIR SUSPICIONS.
IT'S THE ONLY STRONG POINT IN MY RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
IS HEARSAY ALL THAT'S SMEARING GOTTFRESH?
NO. I BELIEVE THERE'S DEFINITE TRUTH TO IT.

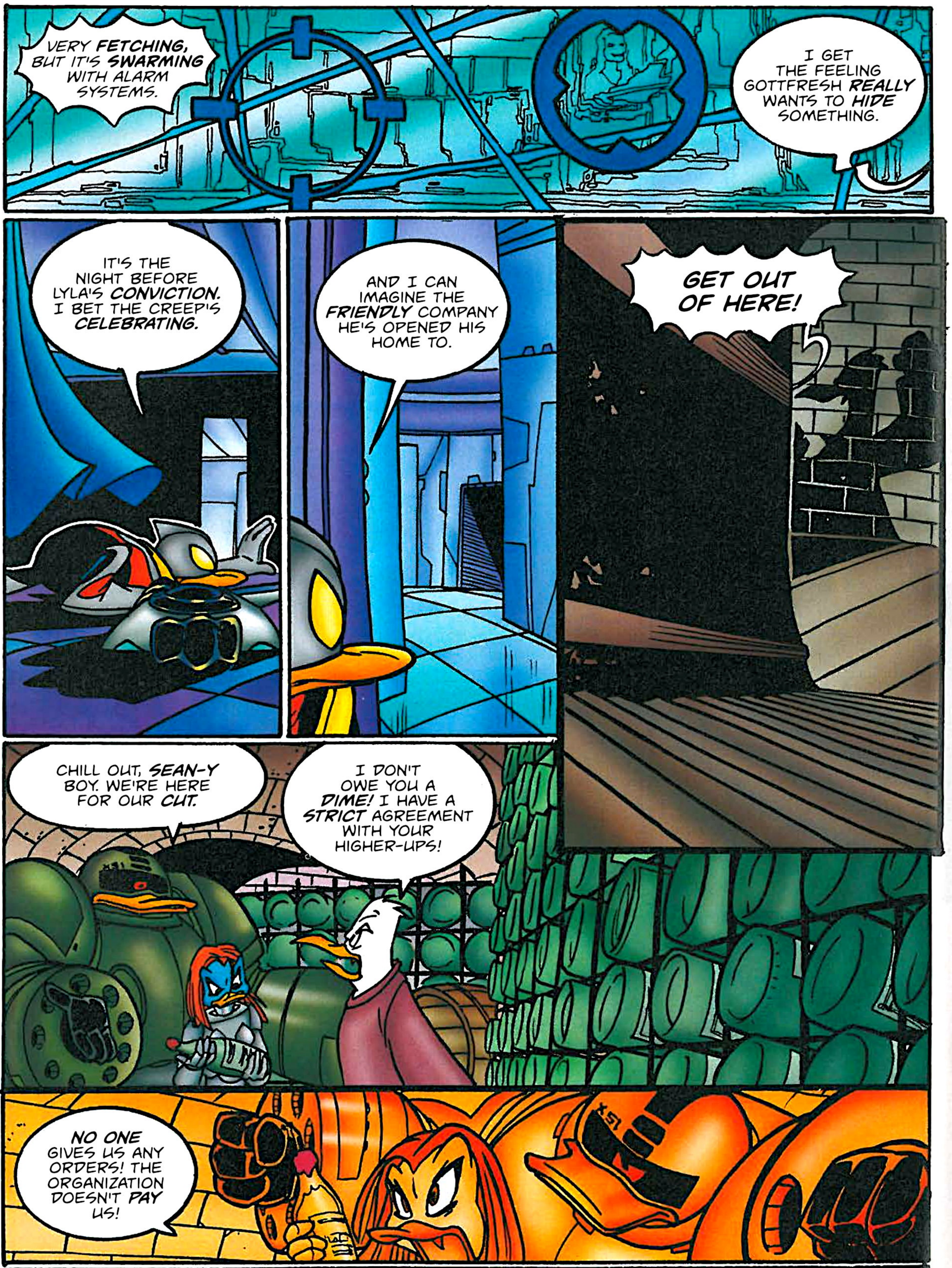

GOTTFRESH HAS GOTTEN TOO **POWERFUL** AS OF LATE.
THAT'S THANKS TO **CORRUPTION** AND **DISHONESTY.** HE'LL DO **ANYTHING** TO TAKE MY PLACE!
OKAY, SO **WHAT?**
SO, YOU CAN HELP US **BUST** THIS GUY.
HEY, WHADDAYA **TAKE** ME FOR? I'M NOT A **GOVERNMENT GOON!**
THIS HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH **POLITICS,** D.A. IN **FACT,** I MUST ASK THE KIND GOVERNOR TO **LEAVE.**
WHAT? WH-WHAT GIVES YOU THE **RIGHT** TO-
I DON'T WANT TO **HEAR** IT FROM YOU! **OUT** OF MY OFFICE, THIS **INSTANT!**
I APOLOGIZE, D.A. IT'S SO **HARD** TO ACCOMPLISH **ANYTHING** WHILE I'M AWAY.
BOY, I WOULDN'T SAY **THAT!**
THINGS ARE PROGRESSING **SLOWLY** HERE IN NEW WASHINGTON. THE LAST MEETING IS **TOMORROW.**
PERFECT, THEN YOU HAVE **LOTSA** TIME TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN' ON.

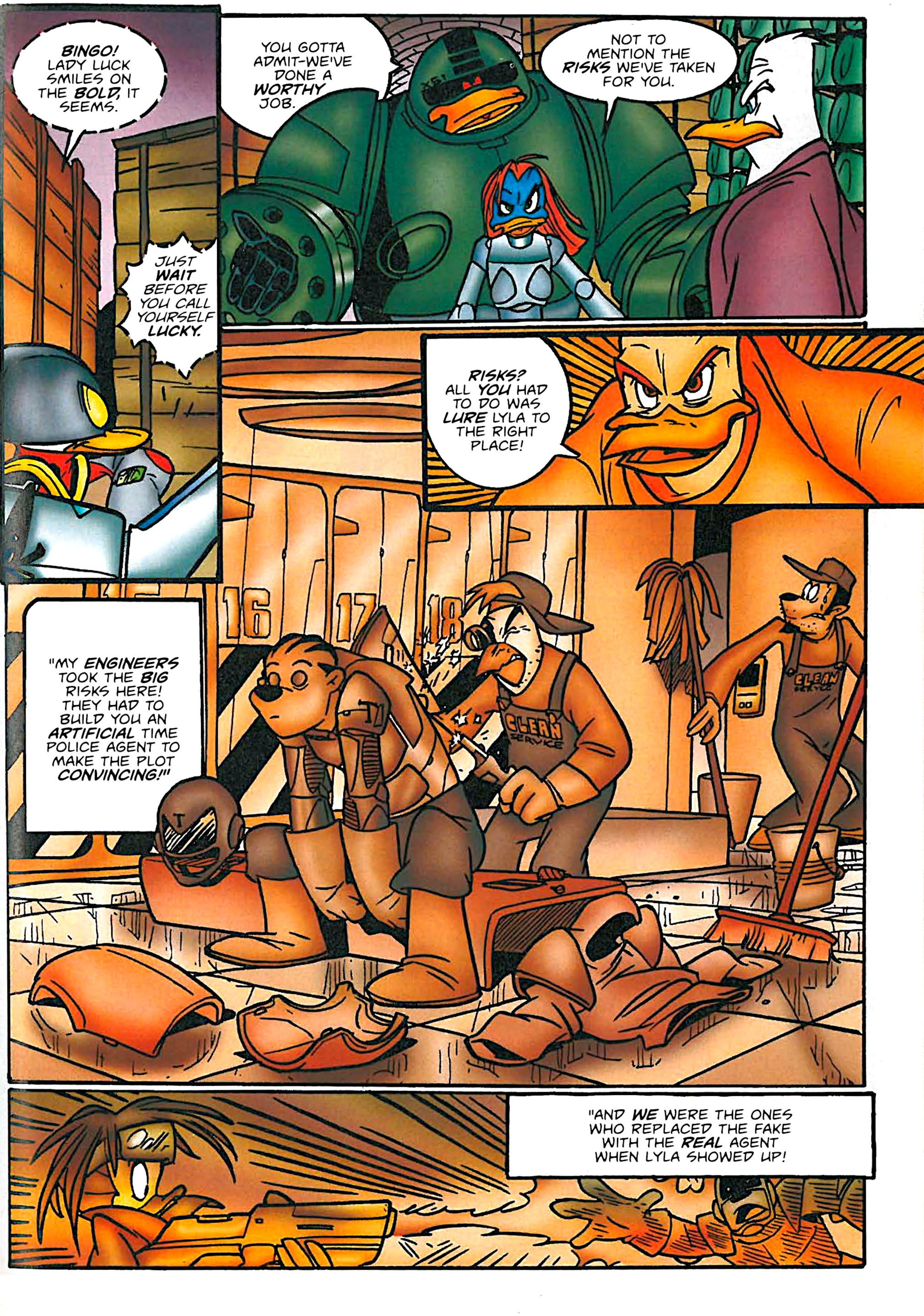

DID YOU EVER WONDER **WHY** THOSE TWO TIME PIRATES WERE IN THE 20TH CENTURY?
Y'KNOW, I **HAVE.**
THEY POPPED IN OUTTA **NOWHERE,** AND THEN THEY WERE **GONE.**
AND THEY DIDN'T COMMIT ANY **ROBBERIES,** CORRECT?
YEAH- **WAIT** A MINUTE. DO YOU THINK GOTTFRESH...?
I **DO.** IT SEEMS LIKE THIS WHOLE ORDEAL WAS A **SET-UP,** INCLUDING LYLA'S TRIAL.
WELL, IN THAT CASE, THAT BALL OF HOT AIR'S EARNED A **VISIT** FROM **ME!**
THAT'S **JUST** WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.
OH, AND WHILE YOU'RE HERE, I WANTED TO SHOW YOU **THIS.**
ZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ

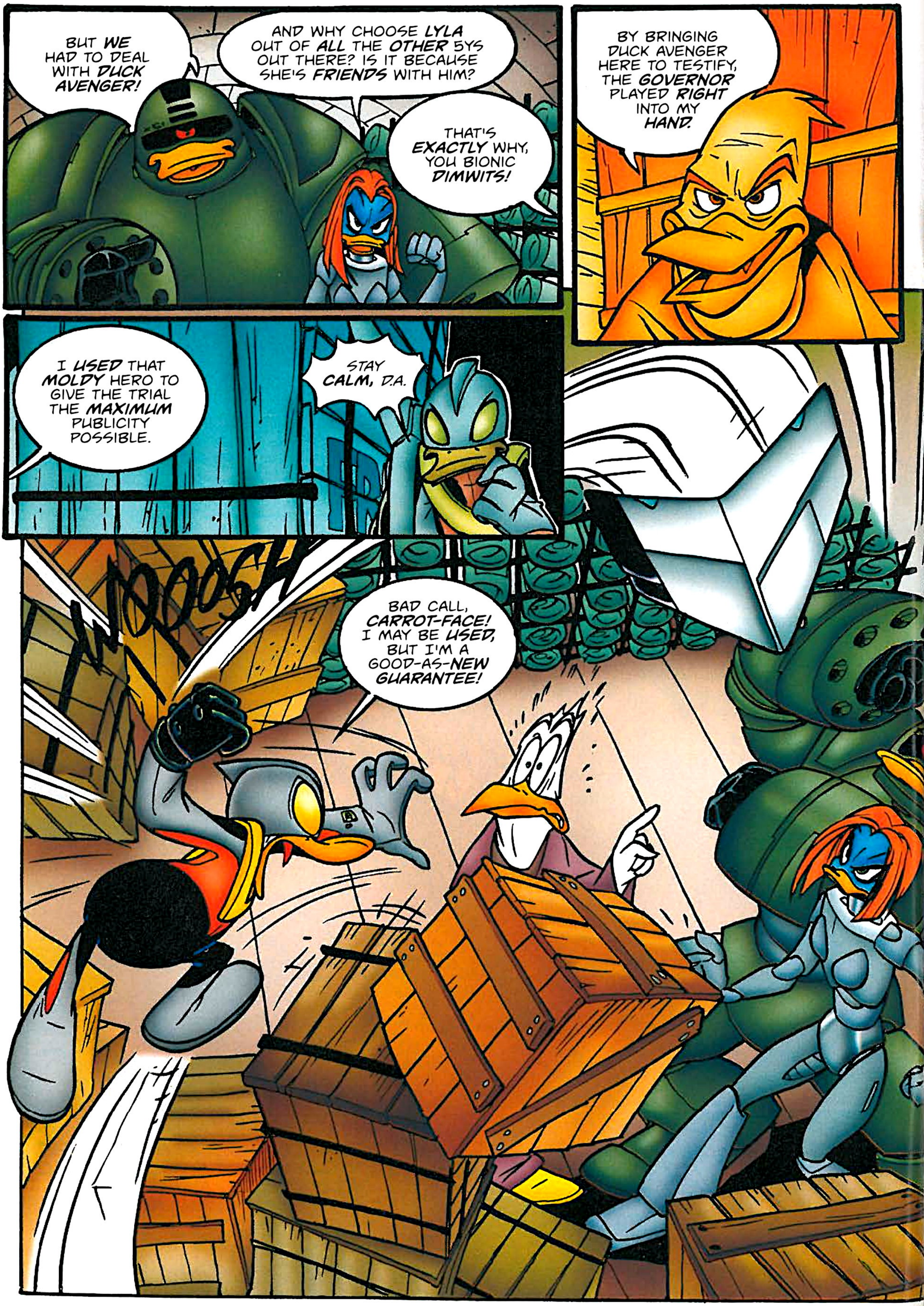

"AUTUMN IS ENDING, AND A CHILLING BREEZE IS ENTERING OUR SOULS."
"THE TRUTH IS A MEMORY COVERED WITH LEAVES, LYLA."
"ALL WE NEED IS A GUST OF WIND TO REVEAL IT."
GUARDS, DRONES, AND A TOP-NOTCH SECURITY SYSTEM. IT'S A FORTRESS.
EVEN WITH THESE NEW GIZMOS YOU GAVE ME, GOTTFRESH'S HOUSE IS IMPENETRABLE!
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING THIS PESSIMISTIC.

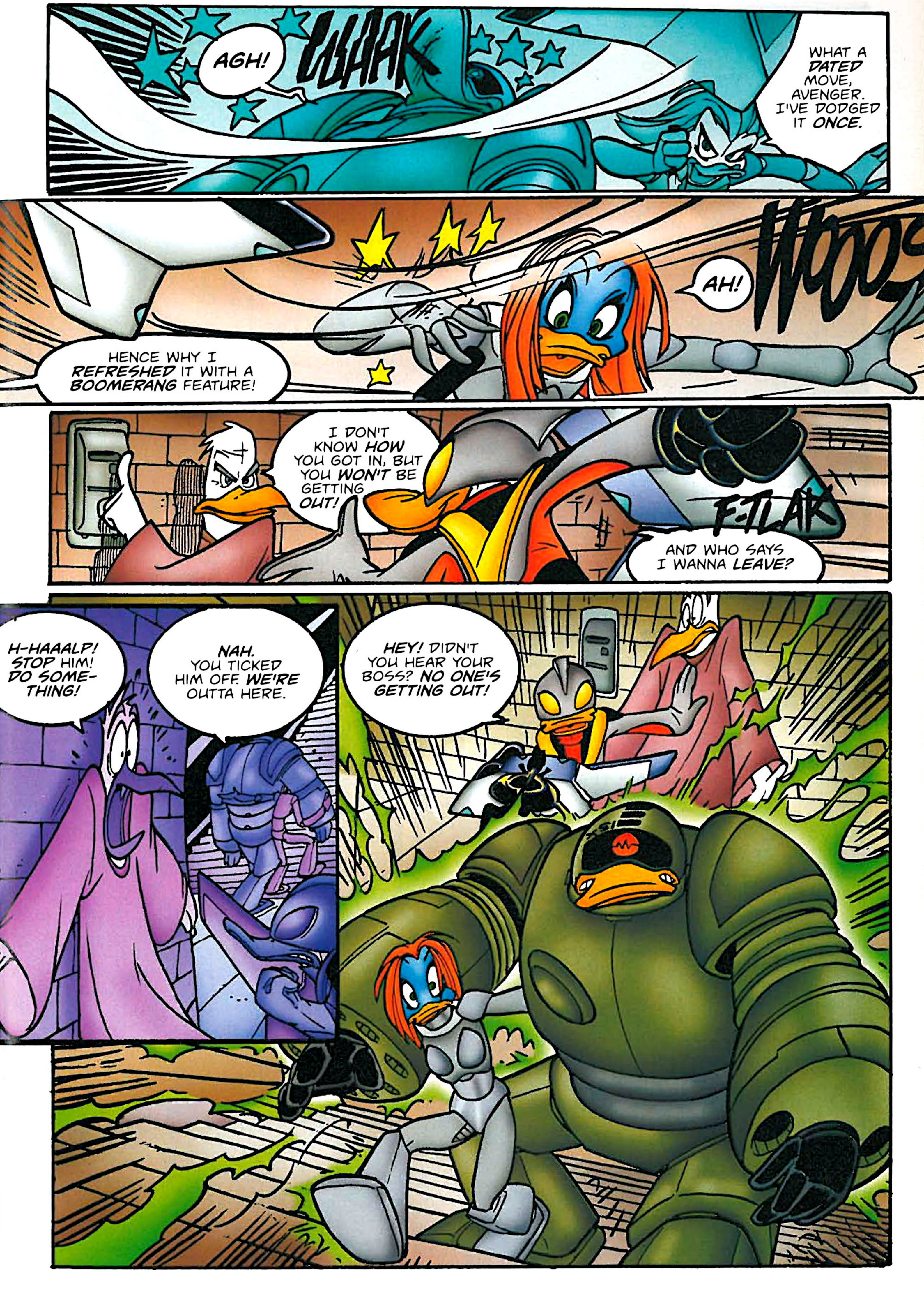

I'M BEING **REALISTIC.** ALTHOUGH, ALL THIS STUFF **REMINDS** ME OF SOMETHING.
IS THAT SO? WHAT IS IT?
WELL, THESE **WEAPONS,** YOUR **VIDEO** CALL...
*ARE YOU REVEALING A **SECRET** OF YOURS TO ME, D.A.?*
UH...**NAH,** FORGET IT. A **FRIEND** OF MINE WOULD GET CROSS WITH ME. LET'S GET ON WITH IT.
HEE-HEE! *THAT **WOULD** BE BETTER.*
HMM... GOTTFRESH IS HAVING **DINNER.** MAYBE I COULD JUST **KNOCK.**
*ARE YOU **SURE?***
I SEE A QUAINT FAMILY PICTURE THROUGH THE WINDOW, LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF A **NORMAN ROCKWEB** PAINTING.
*THAT'S THE **POINT.** DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE **DROIDS** WHEN YOU SEE THEM?*
WHAT? YOU MEAN, IT'S **FAKE?**

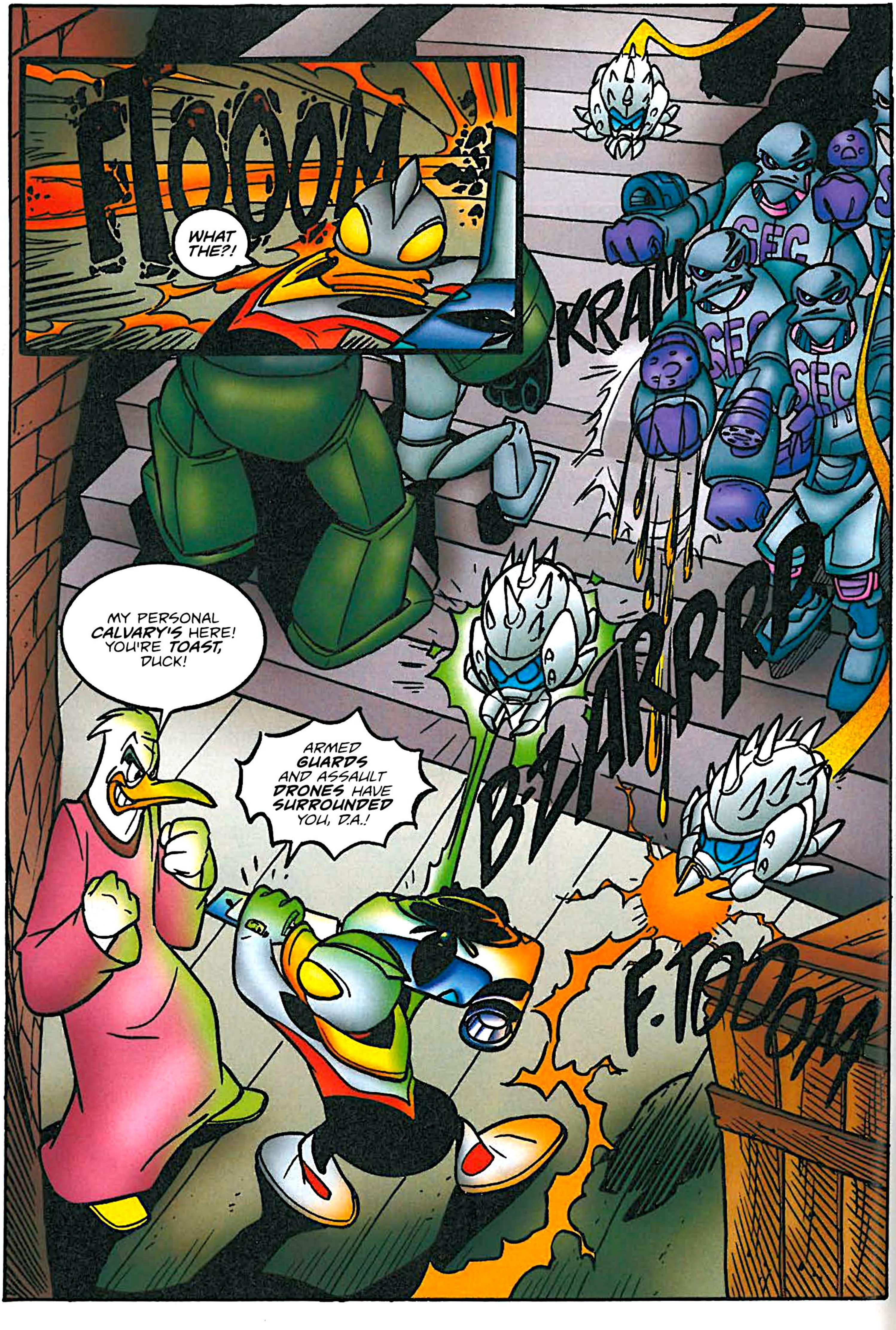

IT'S A SOPHISTICATED RUSE. GOTTFRESH KNOWS HE'S UNDER WATCH.
HE WANTS TO PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK, EH?
HEY, I CAN SEE INTO THE GROUND! THERE'S SOME WEIRD POTATOES DOWN THERE.
THOSE "POTATOES" ARE MINES. YOUR HELMET RECONSTRUCTS VIRTUALLY WHAT MY SATELLITES "DIG UP," SO TO SPEAK.
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.
I'LL JUST SKITTER BETWEEN 'EM, AND-
STOP!
DRONES! ...WHY AREN'T THEY PULVERIZING ME?
THEY CAN'T SEE, BUT THEY CAN DETECT BODY HEAT.
THE TACTICAL SUIT I GAVE YOU SETS YOU BODY TEMPERATURE TO ZERO.
COOL BEANS. AND I AIN'T EVEN COLD. NOW, LET'S SEE HOW HE'S FURNISHED THE JOINT.

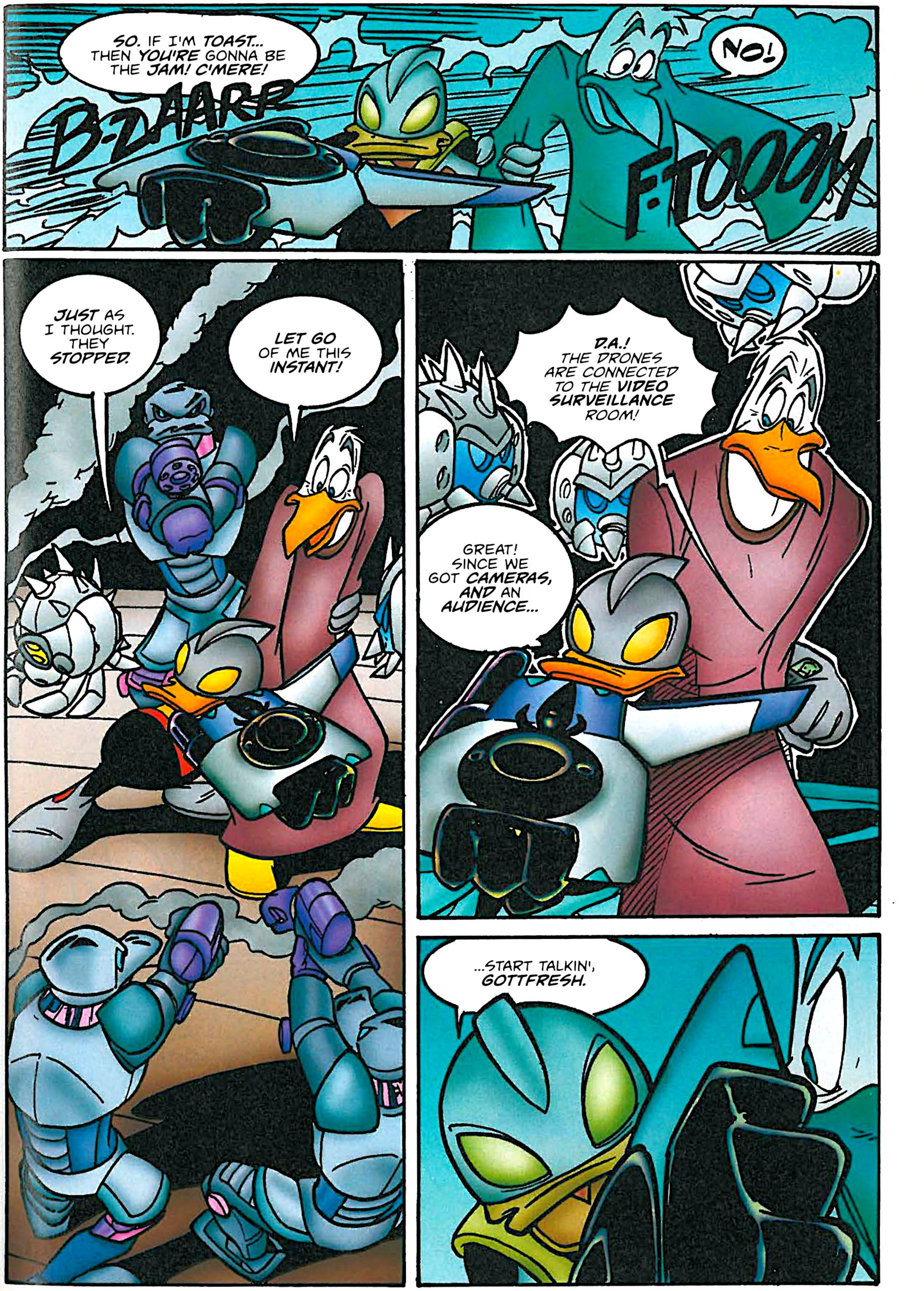

VERY FETCHING, BUT IT'S SWARMING WITH ALARM SYSTEMS.
I GET THE FEELING GOTTFRESH REALLY WANTS TO HIDE SOMETHING.
IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE LYLA'S CONVICTION. I BET THE CREEP'S CELEBRATING.
AND I CAN IMAGINE THE FRIENDLY COMPANY HE'S OPENED HIS HOME TO.
GET OUT OF HERE!
CHILL OUT, SEAN-Y BOY. WE'RE HERE FOR OUR CUT.
I DON'T OWE YOU A DIME! I HAVE A STRICT AGREEMENT WITH YOUR HIGHER-UPS!
NO ONE GIVES US ANY ORDERS! THE ORGANIZATION DOESN'T PAY US!
SO YOU'VE GOT TO PITCH IN.

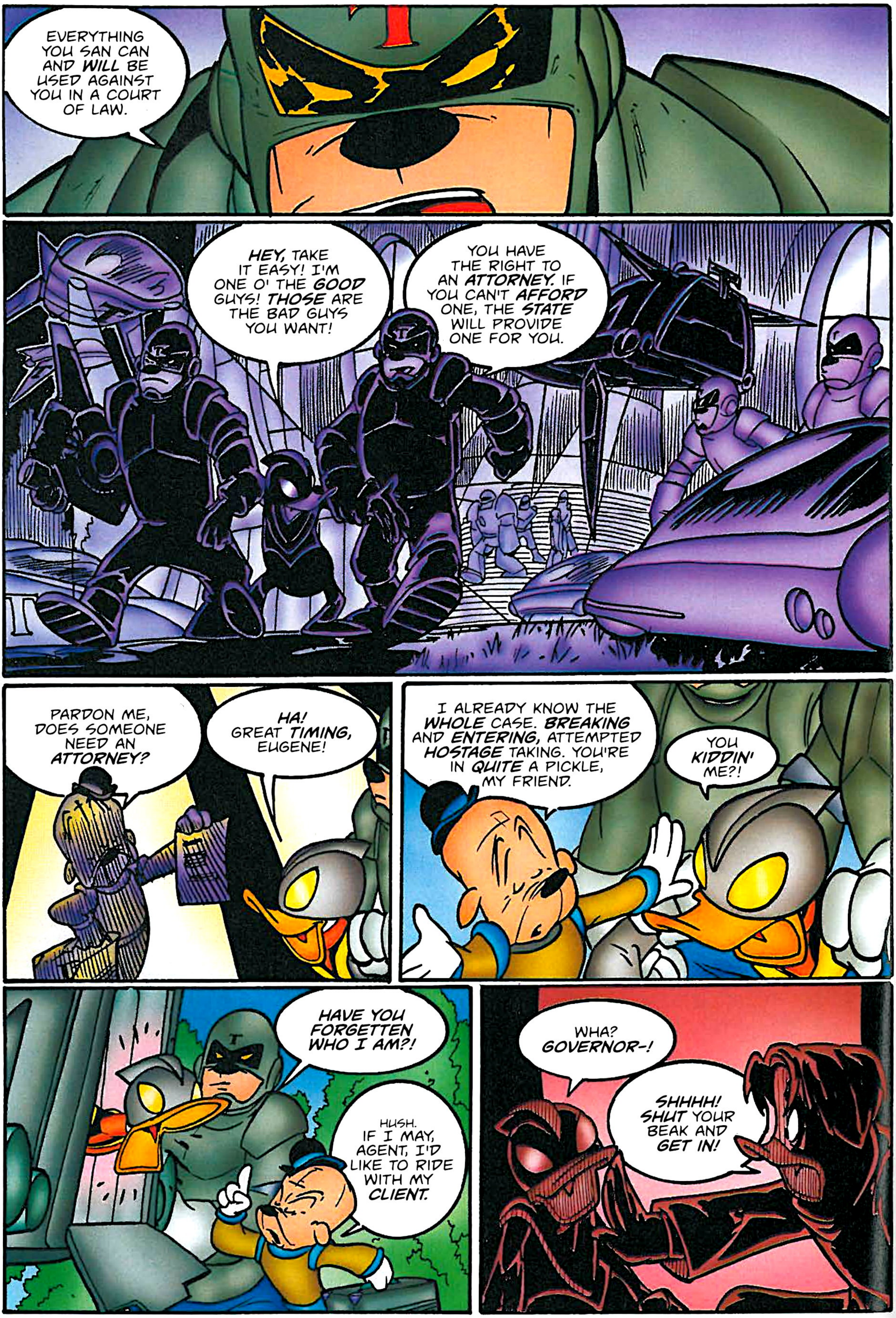

BINGO! LADY LUCK SMILES ON THE **BOLD,** IT SEEMS.
YOU GOTTA ADMIT-WE'VE DONE A **WORTHY** JOB.
NOT TO MENTION THE **RISKS** WE'VE TAKEN FOR YOU.
JUST **WAIT** BEFORE YOU CALL YOURSELF **LUCKY.**
RISKS? ALL **YOU** HAD TO DO WAS **LURE** LYLA TO THE RIGHT PLACE!
16
17
18
"MY **ENGINEERS** TOOK THE **BIG** RISKS HERE! THEY HAD TO BUILD YOU AN **ARTIFICIAL** TIME POLICE AGENT TO MAKE THE PLOT **CONVINCING!**"
CLEAN SERVICE
CLEAN SERVICE
"AND **WE** WERE THE ONES WHO REPLACED THE FAKE WITH THE **REAL** AGENT WHEN LYLA SHOWED UP!

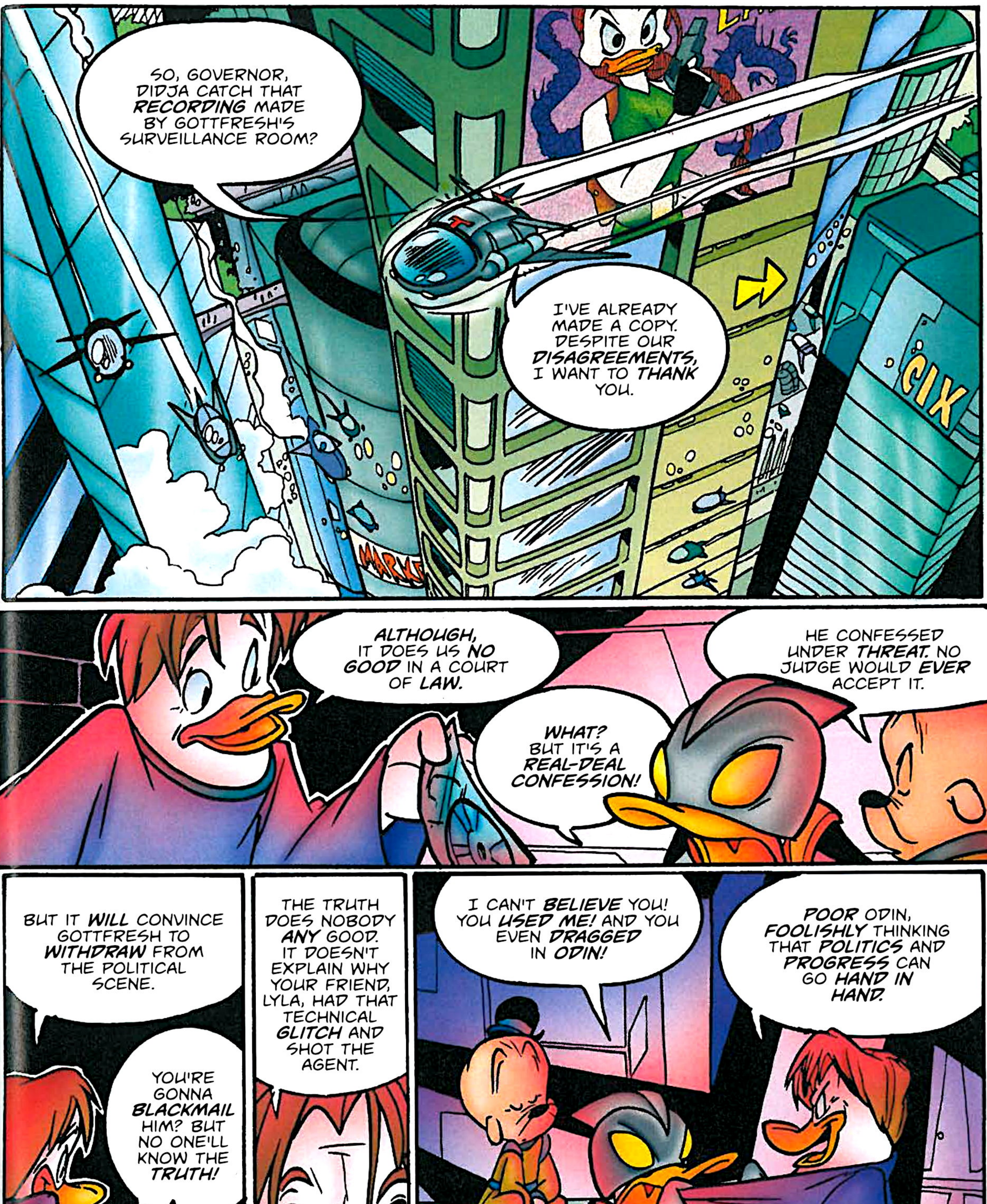

BUT WE HAD TO DEAL WITH DUCK AVENGER!
AND WHY CHOOSE LYLA OUT OF ALL THE OTHER SYS OUT THERE? IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S FRIENDS WITH HIM?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY, YOU BIONIC DIMWITS!
BY BRINGING DUCK AVENGER HERE TO TESTIFY, THE GOVERNOR PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HAND.
I USED THAT MOLDY HERO TO GIVE THE TRIAL THE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY POSSIBLE.
STAY CALM, D.A.
WHOOOSH
BAD CALL, CARROT-FACE! I MAY BE USED, BUT I'M A GOOD-AS-NEW GUARANTEE!

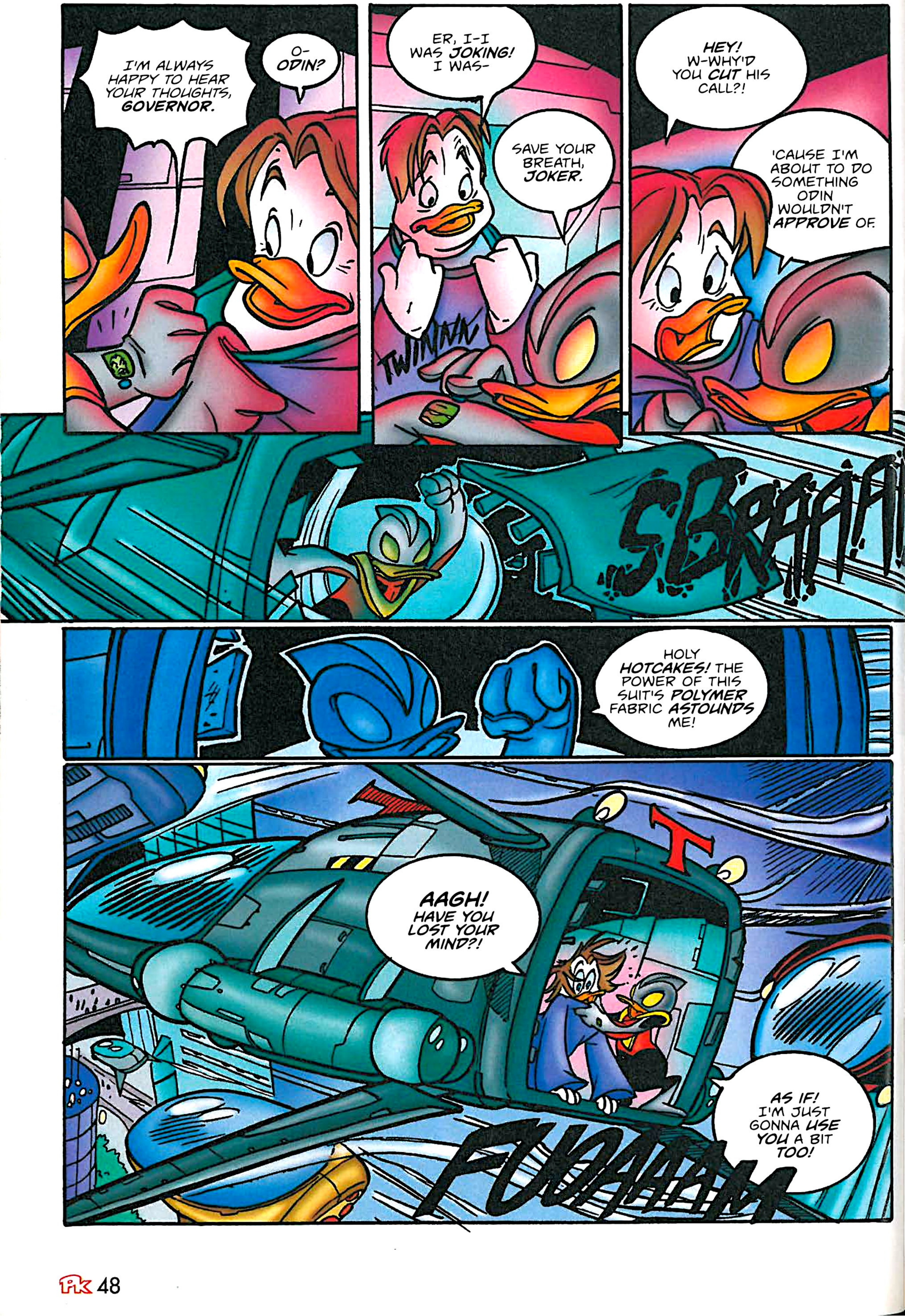

AGH!
WHAK
WHAT A DATED MOVE, AVENGER. I'VE DODGED IT ONCE.
WOOS
AH!
HENCE WHY I REFRESHED IT WITH A BOOMERANG FEATURE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT IN, BUT YOU WON'T BE GETTING OUT!
F-TLAK
AND WHO SAYS I WANNA LEAVE?
H-HAAALP! STOP HIM! DO SOME-THING!
NAH. YOU TICKED HIM OFF. WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
HEY! DIDN'T YOU HEAR YOUR BOSS? NO ONE'S GETTING OUT!

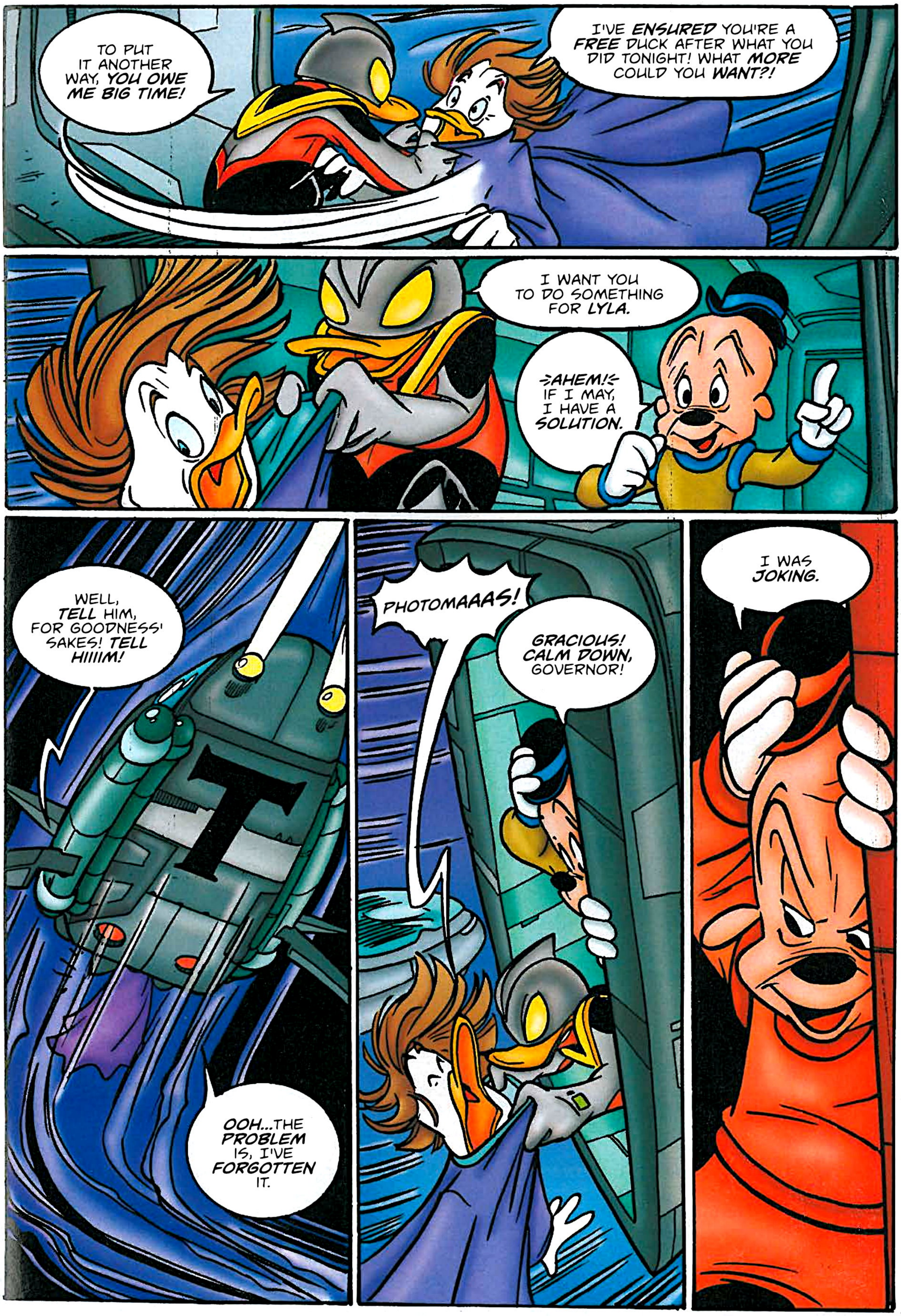

FLOOOM
WHAT THE?!
KRAM
SEC
MY PERSONAL CALVARY'S HERE! YOU'RE TOAST, DUCK!
ARMED GUARDS AND ASSAULT DRONES HAVE SURROUNDED YOU, D.A.!
BZARRRR
F-TOOOM

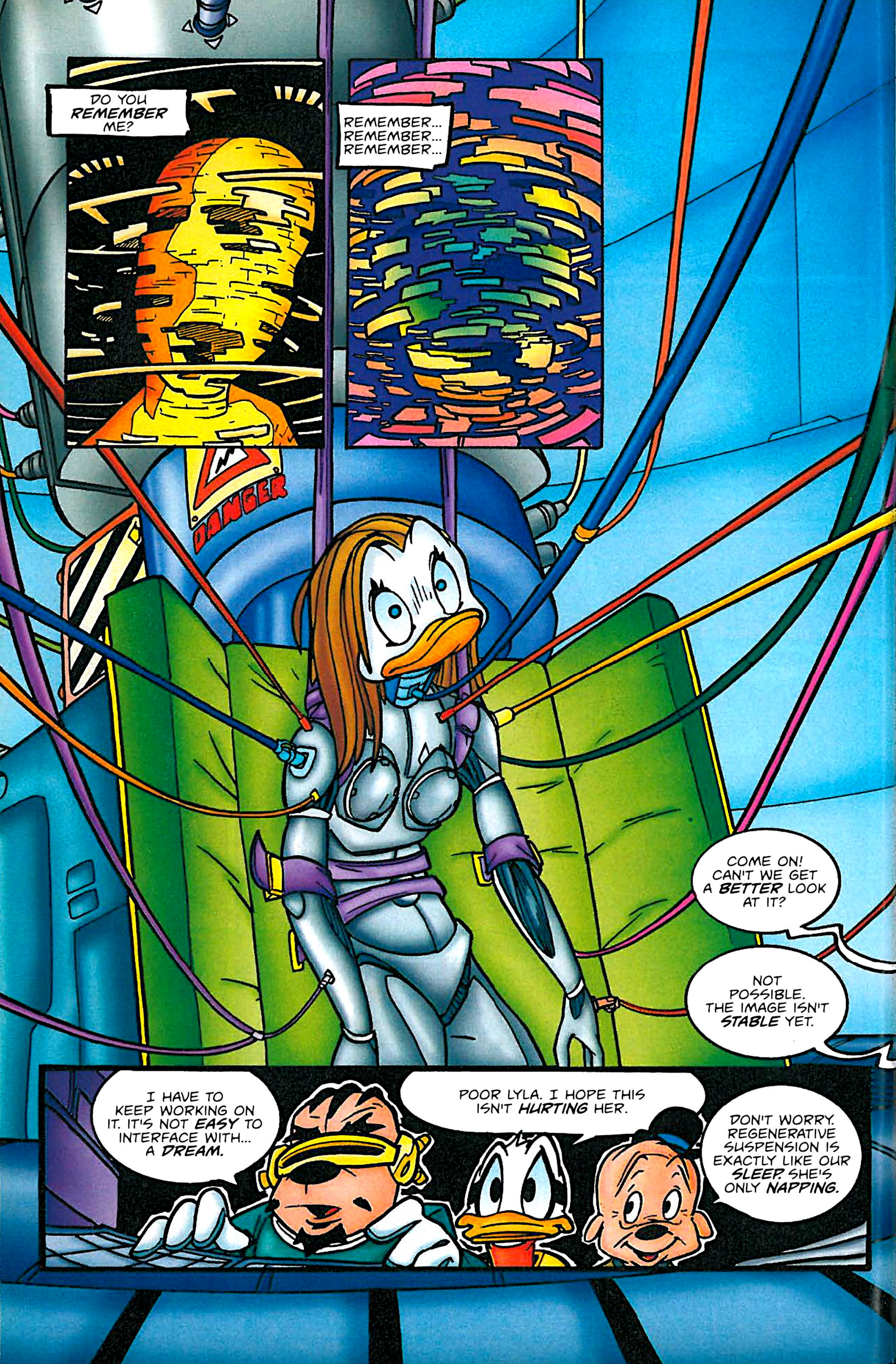

SO. IF I'M TOAST... THEN YOU'RE GONNA BE THE JAM! C'MERE!
NO!
B-DAARP
F-TOOOM
JUST AS I THOUGHT. THEY STOPPED.
LET GO OF ME THIS INSTANT!
D.A.! THE DRONES ARE CONNECTED TO THE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ROOM!
GREAT! SINCE WE GOT CAMERAS, AND AN AUDIENCE...
...START TALKIN', GOTTFRESH.

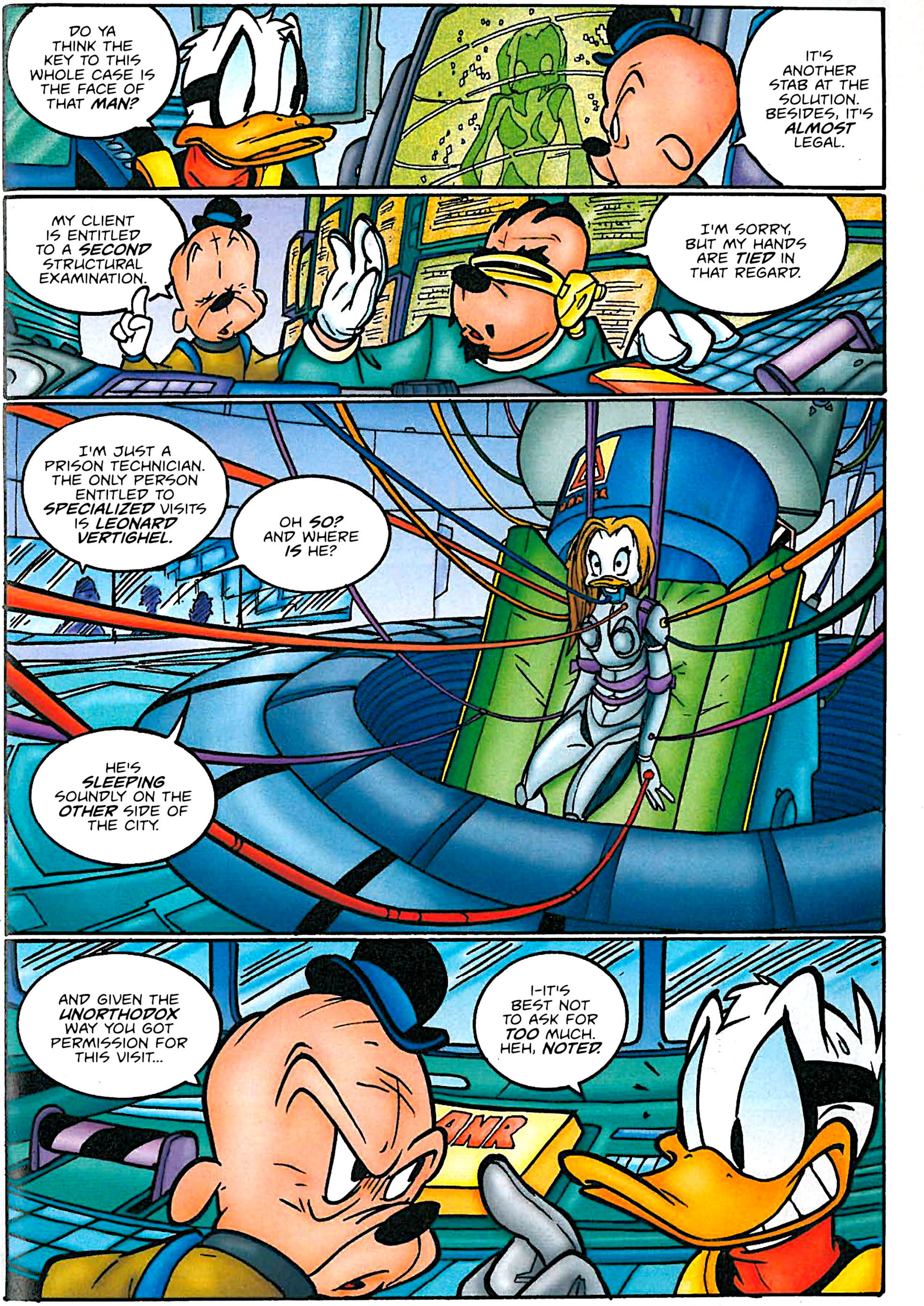

EVERYTHING YOU SAN CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.
HEY, TAKE IT EASY! I'M ONE O' THE GOOD GUYS! THOSE ARE THE BAD GUYS YOU WANT!
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD ONE, THE STATE WILL PROVIDE ONE FOR YOU.
PARDON ME, DOES SOMEONE NEED AN ATTORNEY?
HA! GREAT TIMING, EUGENE!
I ALREADY KNOW THE WHOLE CASE. BREAKING AND ENTERING, ATTEMPTED HOSTAGE TAKING. YOU'RE IN QUITE A PICKLE, MY FRIEND.
YOU KIDDIN' ME?!
HAVE YOU FORGETTEN WHO I AM?!
HUSH. IF I MAY, AGENT, I'D LIKE TO RIDE WITH MY CLIENT.
WHA? GOVERNOR-!
SHHHH! SHUT YOUR BEAK AND GET IN!

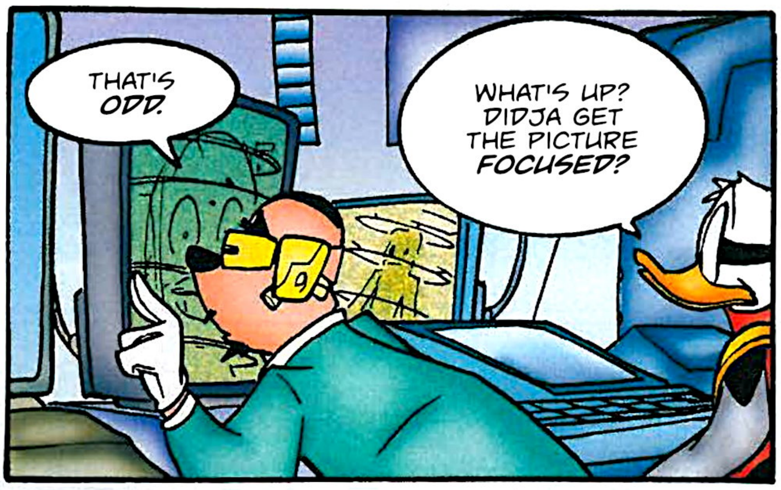

SO, GOVERNOR, DIDJA CATCH THAT *RECORDING* MADE BY GOTTFRESH'S SURVEILLANCE ROOM?
I'VE ALREADY MADE A COPY. DESPITE OUR *DISAGREEMENTS,* I WANT TO *THANK* YOU.
CIX
ALTHOUGH, IT DOES US *NO GOOD* IN A COURT OF *LAW.*
WHAT? BUT IT'S A *REAL-DEAL CONFESSION!*
HE CONFESSED UNDER *THREAT.* NO JUDGE WOULD *EVER* ACCEPT IT.
BUT IT *WILL* CONVINCE GOTTFRESH TO *WITHDRAW* FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE.
YOU'RE GONNA *BLACKMAIL* HIM? BUT NO ONE'LL KNOW THE *TRUTH!*
THE TRUTH DOES NOBODY *ANY* GOOD. IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOUR FRIEND, LYLA, HAD THAT TECHNICAL *GLITCH* AND SHOT THE AGENT.
I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU! YOU *USED ME!* AND YOU EVEN *DRAGGED* IN *ODIN!*
POOR ODIN, *FOOLISHLY* THINKING THAT *POLITICS* AND *PROGRESS* CAN GO *HAND IN HAND.*

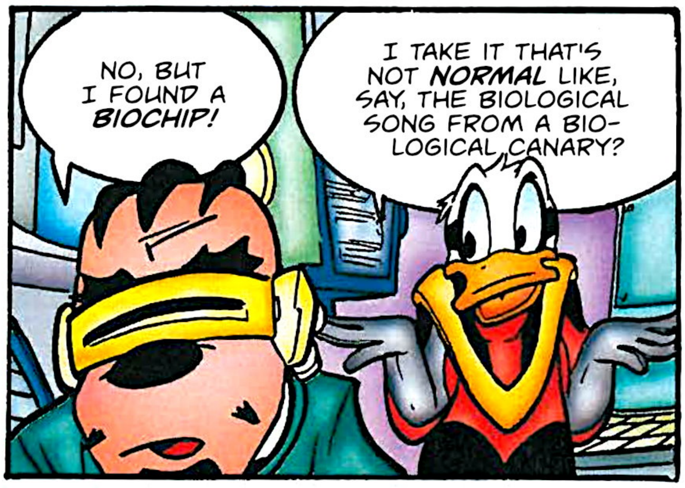

I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS, GOVERNOR.
O- ODIN?
ER, I-I WAS JOKING! I WAS-
TWINNN
SAVE YOUR BREATH, JOKER.
HEY! W-WHY'D YOU CUT HIS CALL?!
'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING ODIN WOULDN'T APPROVE OF.
SBRAAA!!
HOLY HOTCAKES! THE POWER OF THIS SUIT'S POLYMER FABRIC ASTOUNDS ME!
AAGH! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
AS IF! I'M JUST GONNA USE YOU A BIT TOO!
FUOAAHM

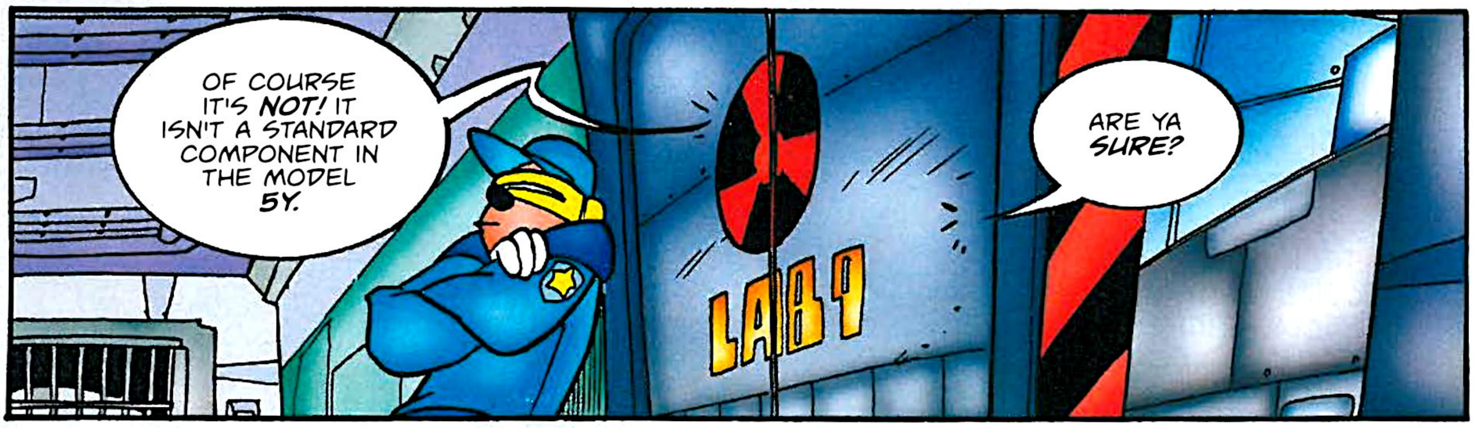

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, YOU OWE ME BIG TIME!
I'VE ENSURED YOU'RE A FREE DUCK AFTER WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?!
I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR LYLA.
>AHEM!< IF I MAY, I HAVE A SOLUTION.
WELL, TELL HIM, FOR GOODNESS' SAKES! TELL HIIIIM!
OOH...THE PROBLEM IS, I'VE FORGOTTEN IT.
PHOTOMAAAS!
GRACIOUS! CALM DOWN, GOVERNOR!
I WAS JOKING.

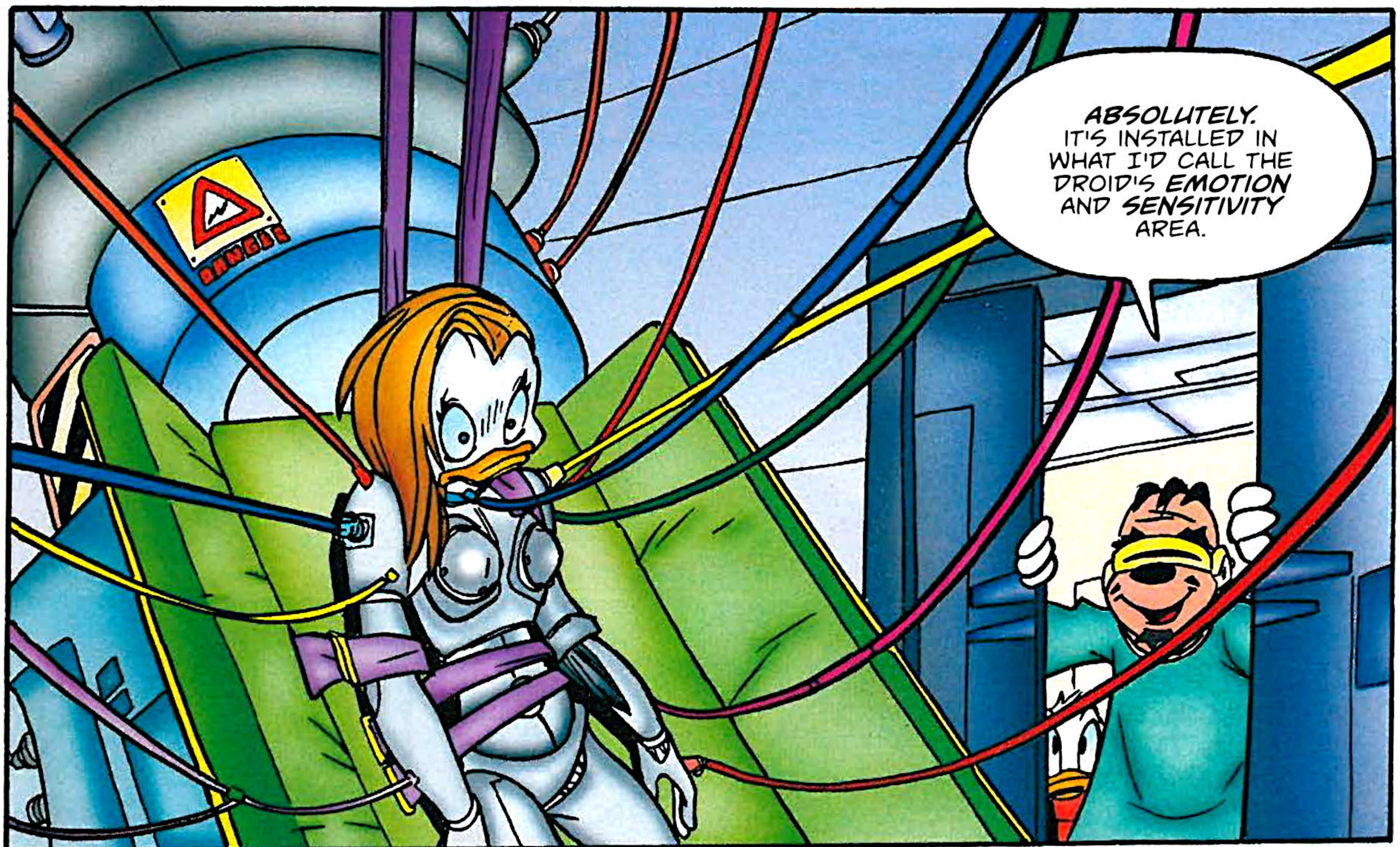

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
REMEMBER... REMEMBER... REMEMBER...
DANGER
COME ON! CAN'T WE GET A BETTER LOOK AT IT?
NOT POSSIBLE. THE IMAGE ISN'T STABLE YET.
I HAVE TO KEEP WORKING ON IT. IT'S NOT EASY TO INTERFACE WITH... A DREAM.
POOR LYLA. I HOPE THIS ISN'T HURTING HER.
DON'T WORRY. REGENERATIVE SUSPENSION IS EXACTLY LIKE OUR SLEEP. SHE'S ONLY NAPPING.

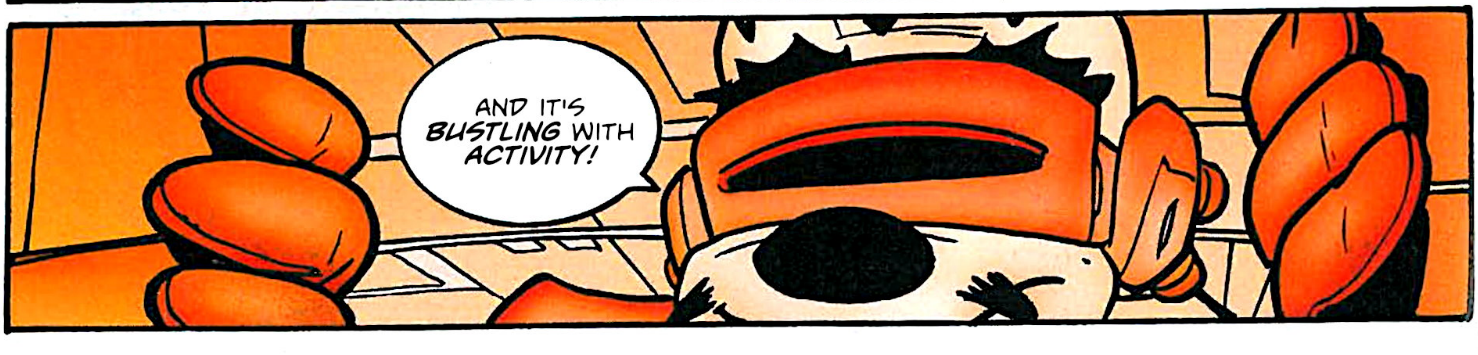

DO YA THINK THE KEY TO THIS WHOLE CASE IS THE FACE OF THAT *MAN?*
IT'S ANOTHER STAB AT THE SOLUTION. BESIDES, IT'S *ALMOST* LEGAL.
MY CLIENT IS ENTITLED TO A *SECOND* STRUCTURAL EXAMINATION.
I'M SORRY, BUT MY HANDS ARE *TIED* IN THAT REGARD.
I'M JUST A PRISON TECHNICIAN. THE ONLY PERSON ENTITLED TO *SPECIALIZED* VISITS IS *LEONARD VERTIGHEL.*
OH *SO?* AND WHERE *IS* HE?
HE'S *SLEEPING* SOUNDLY ON THE *OTHER* SIDE OF THE CITY.
AND GIVEN THE *UNORTHODOX* WAY YOU GOT PERMISSION FOR THIS VISIT...
I-IT'S BEST NOT TO ASK FOR *TOO* MUCH. HEH, *NOTED.*
ANR

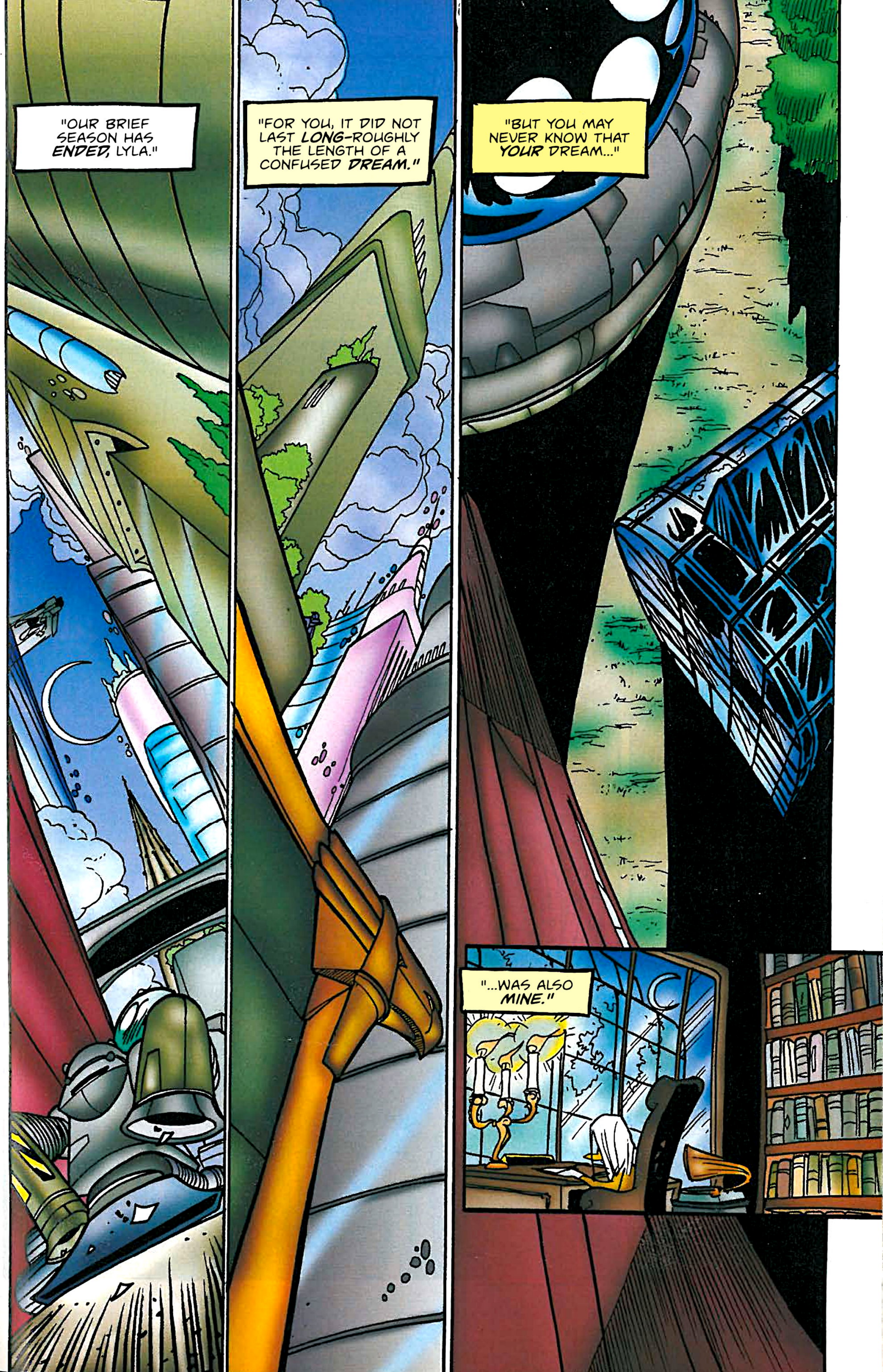

THAT'S *ODD.*
WHAT'S UP? DIDJA GET THE PICTURE *FOCUSED?*

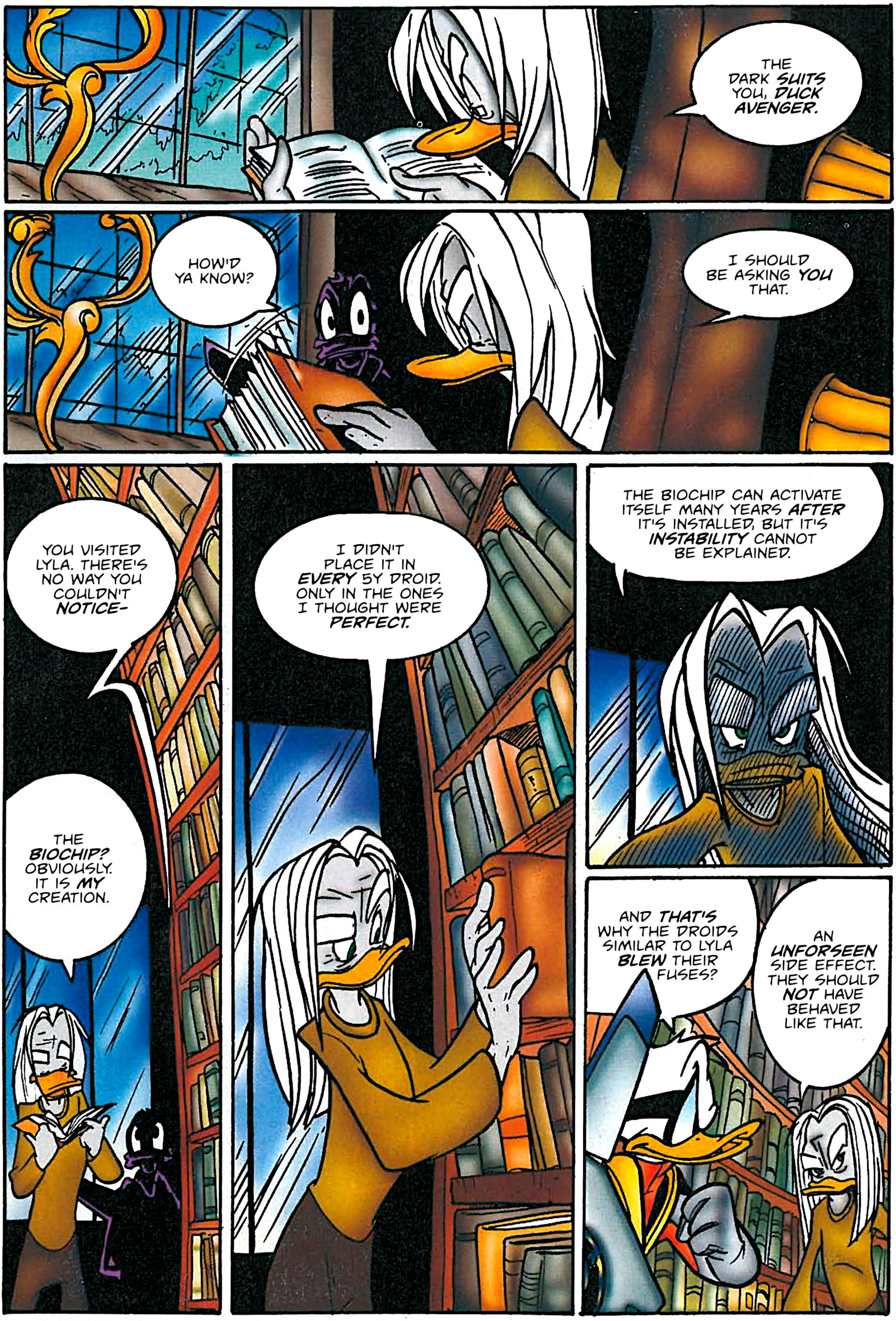

NO, BUT I FOUND A *BIOCHIP!*
I TAKE IT THAT'S NOT **NORMAL** LIKE, SAY, THE BIOLOGICAL SONG FROM A BIOLOGICAL CANARY?

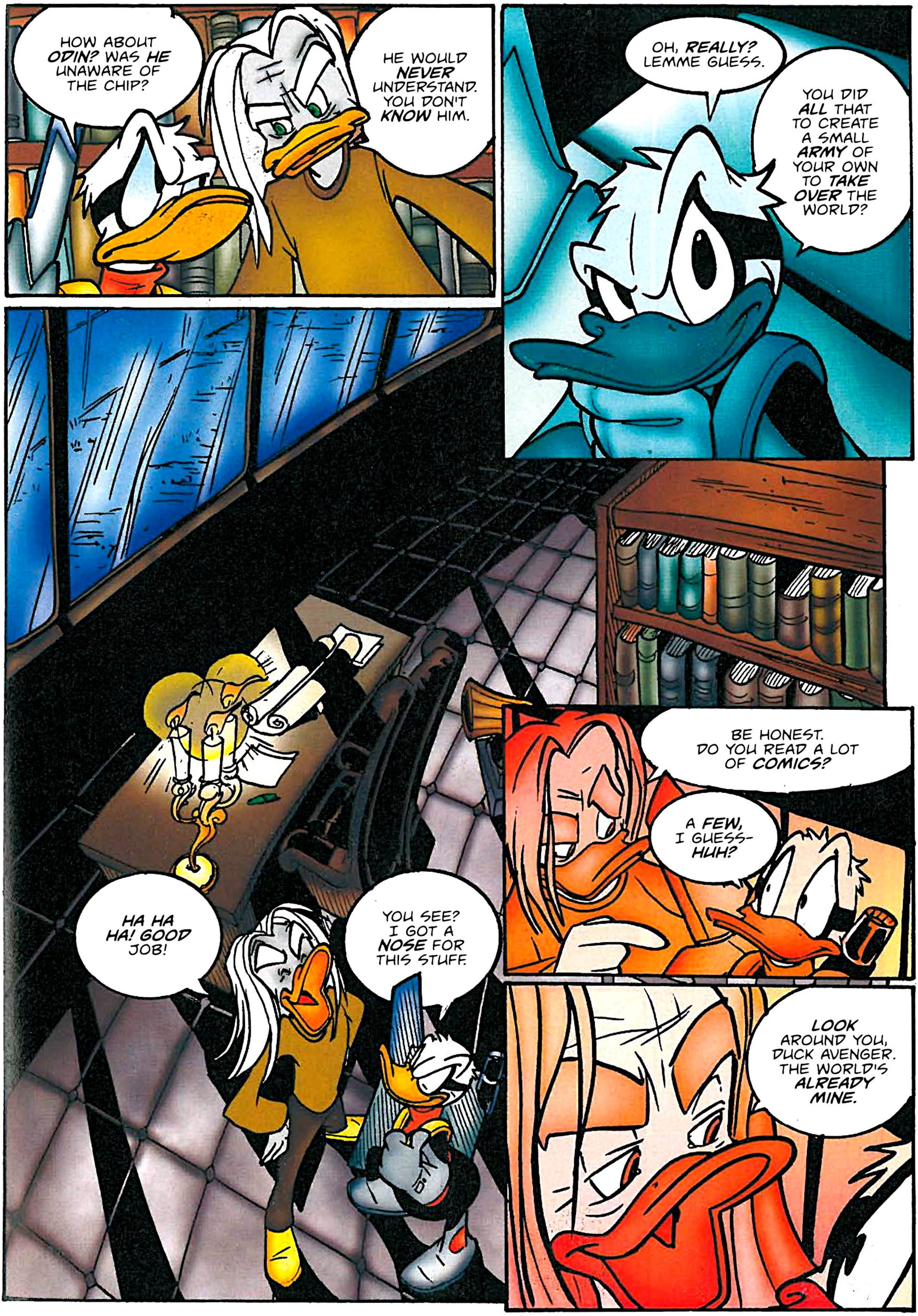

OF COURSE IT'S *NOT!* IT ISN'T A STANDARD COMPONENT IN THE MODEL **5Y.**
ARE YA *SURE?*
LAB 1

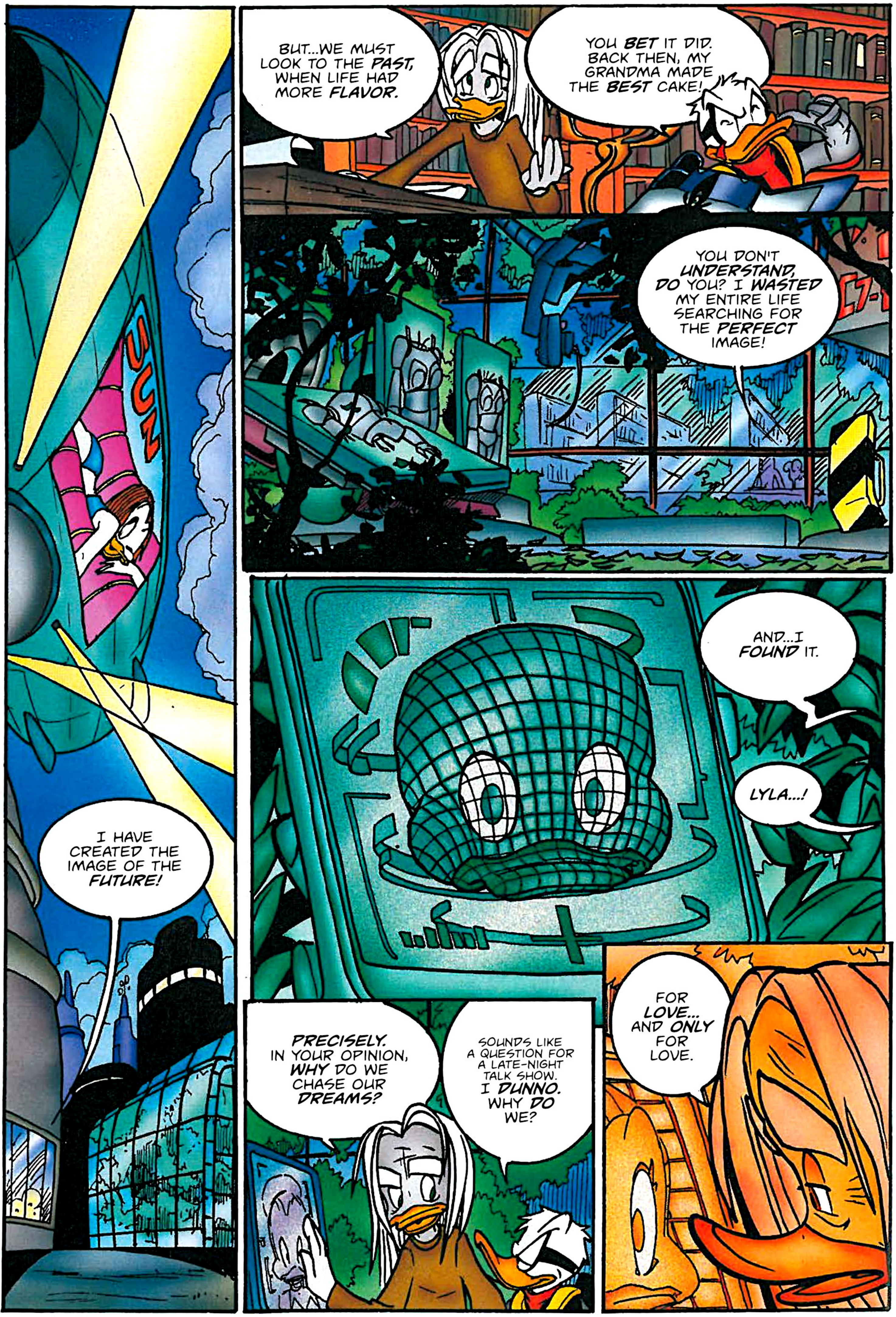

ABSOLUTELY. IT'S INSTALLED IN WHAT I'D CALL THE DROID'S *EMOTION* AND *SENSITIVITY* AREA.
DANGER

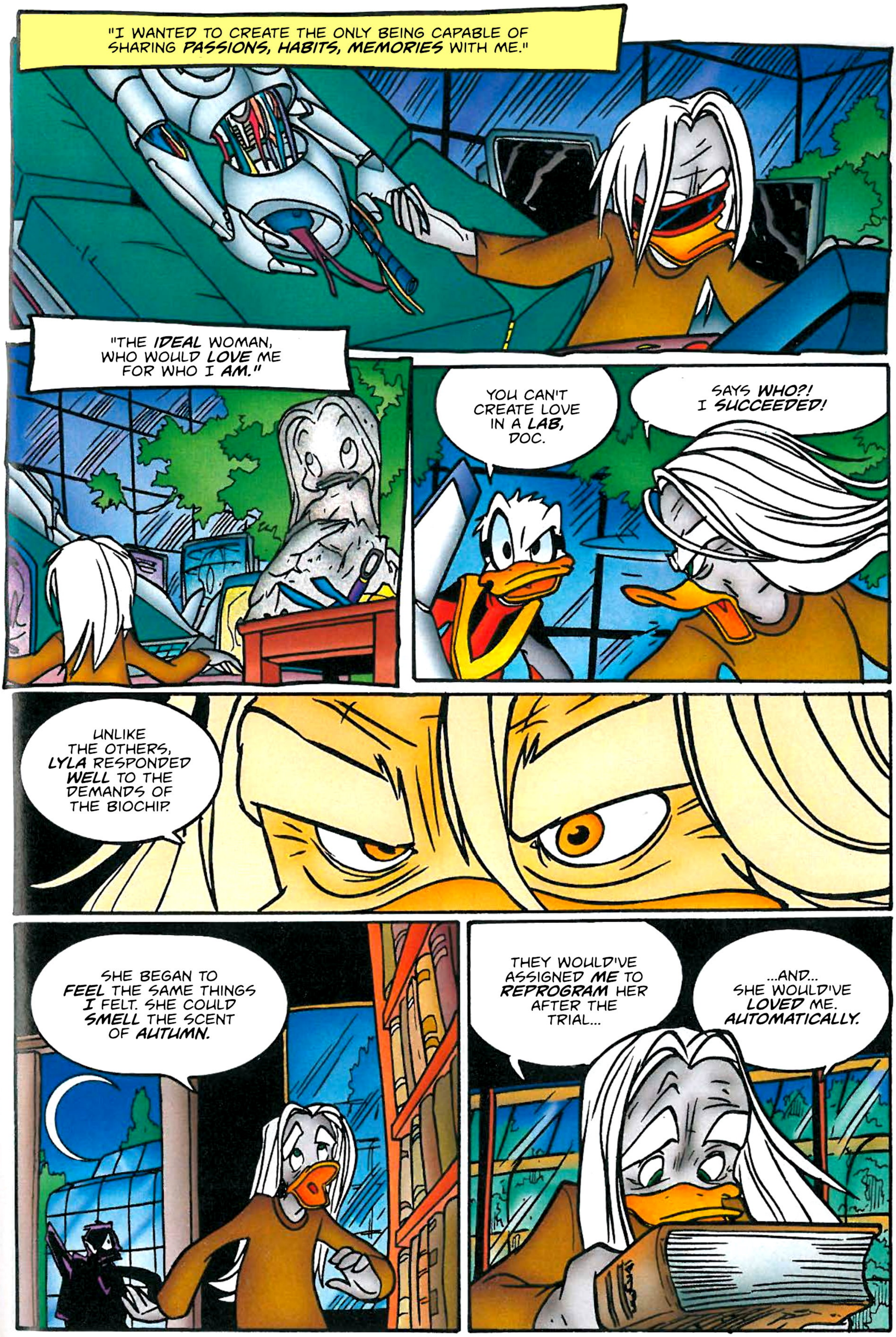

AND IT'S *BUSTLING* WITH *ACTIVITY!*

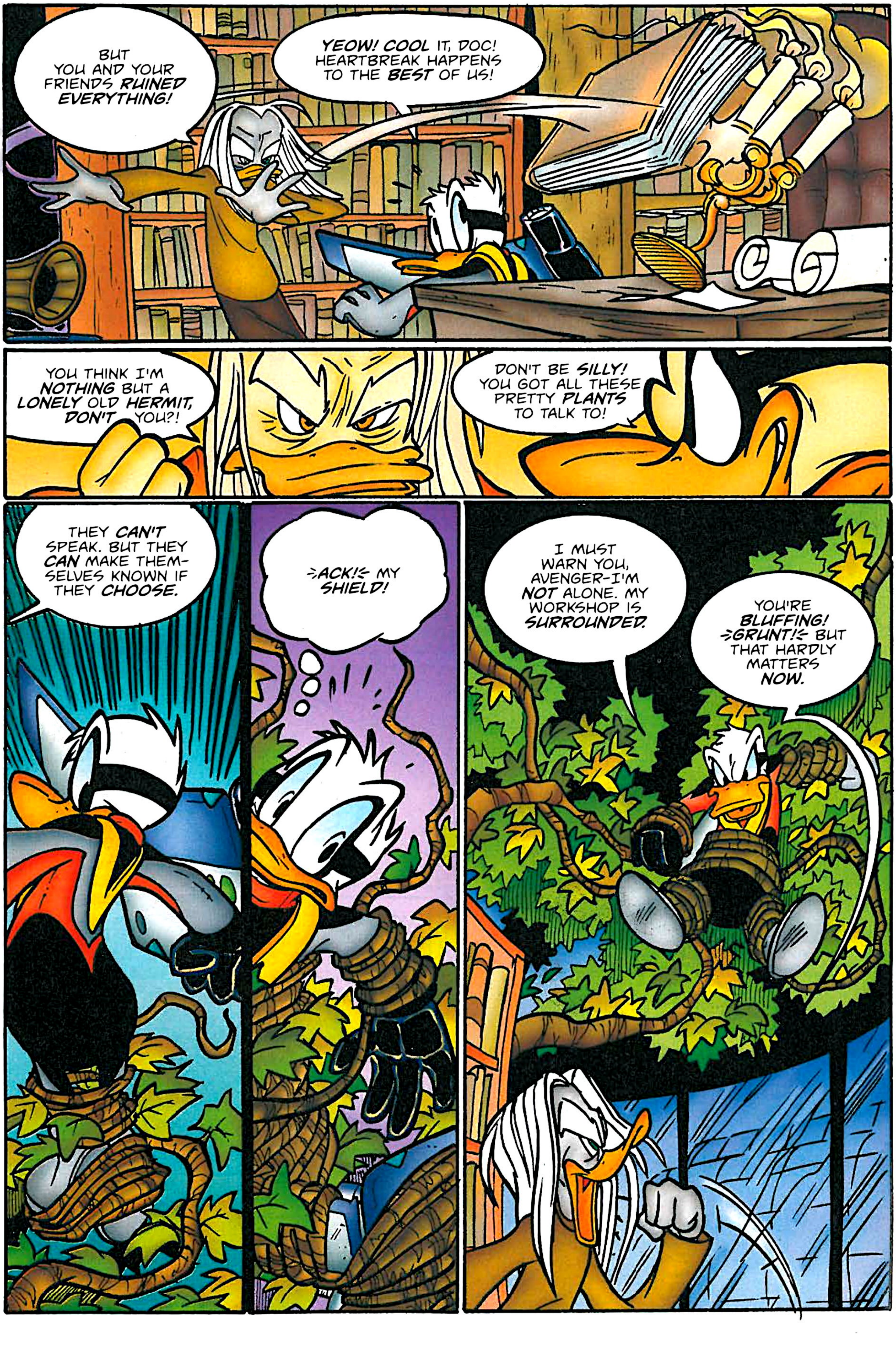

"OUR BRIEF SEASON HAS ENDED, LYLA."
"FOR YOU, IT DID NOT LAST LONG--ROUGHLY THE LENGTH OF A CONFUSED DREAM."
"BUT YOU MAY NEVER KNOW THAT YOUR DREAM..."
"...WAS ALSO MINE."

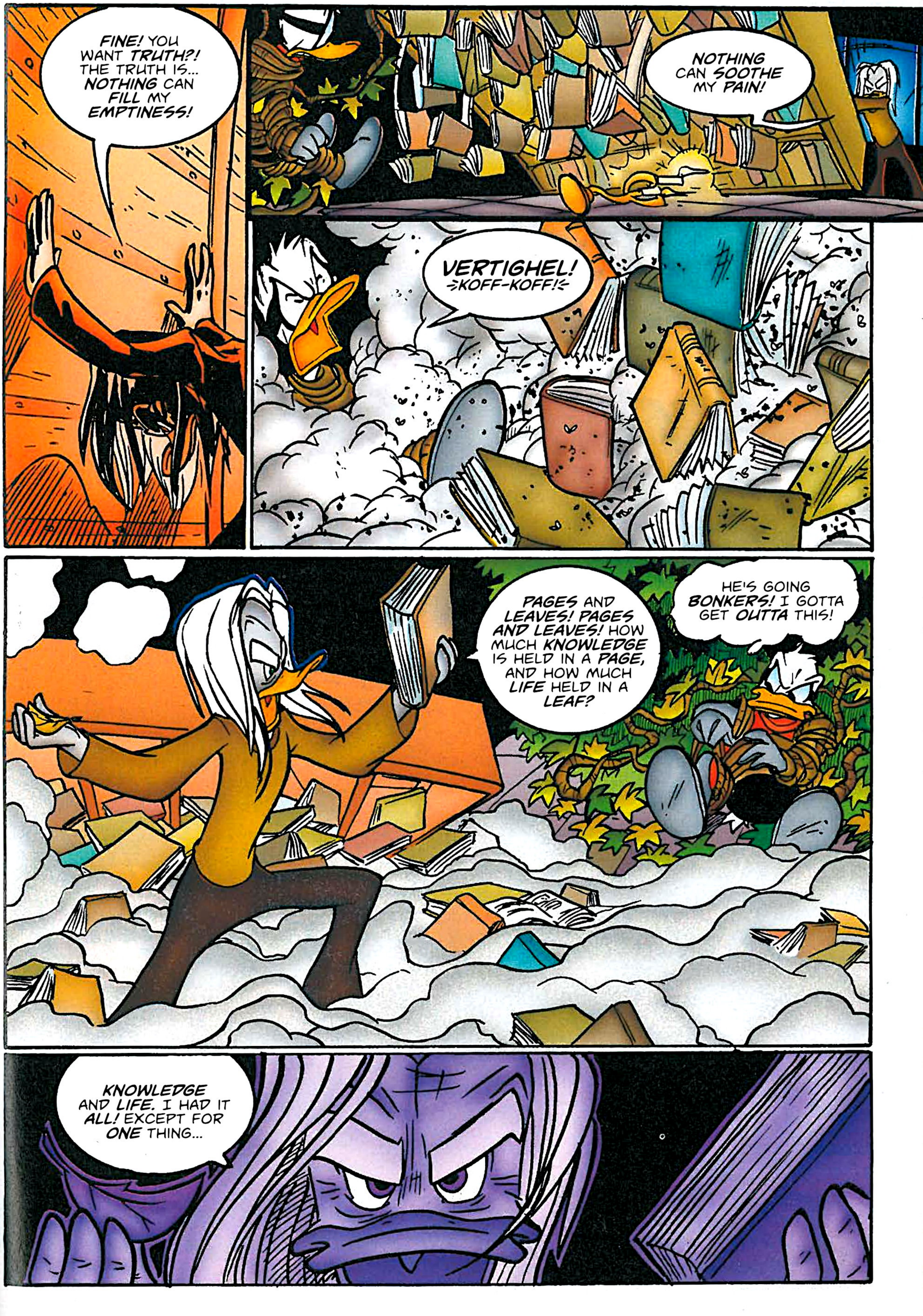

THE DARK **SUITS** YOU, **DUCK AVENGER.**
HOW'D YA KNOW?
I SHOULD BE ASKING **YOU** THAT.
YOU VISITED LYLA. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULDN'T **NOTICE-**
THE **BIOCHIP?** OBVIOUSLY. IT IS **MY** CREATION.
I DIDN'T PLACE IT IN **EVERY** 5Y DROID. ONLY IN THE ONES I THOUGHT WERE **PERFECT.**
THE BIOCHIP CAN ACTIVATE ITSELF MANY YEARS **AFTER** IT'S INSTALLED, BUT IT'S **INSTABILITY** CANNOT BE EXPLAINED.
AND **THAT'S** WHY THE DROIDS SIMILAR TO LYLA **BLEW** THEIR FUSES?
AN **UNFORSEEN** SIDE EFFECT. THEY SHOULD **NOT** HAVE BEHAVED LIKE THAT.

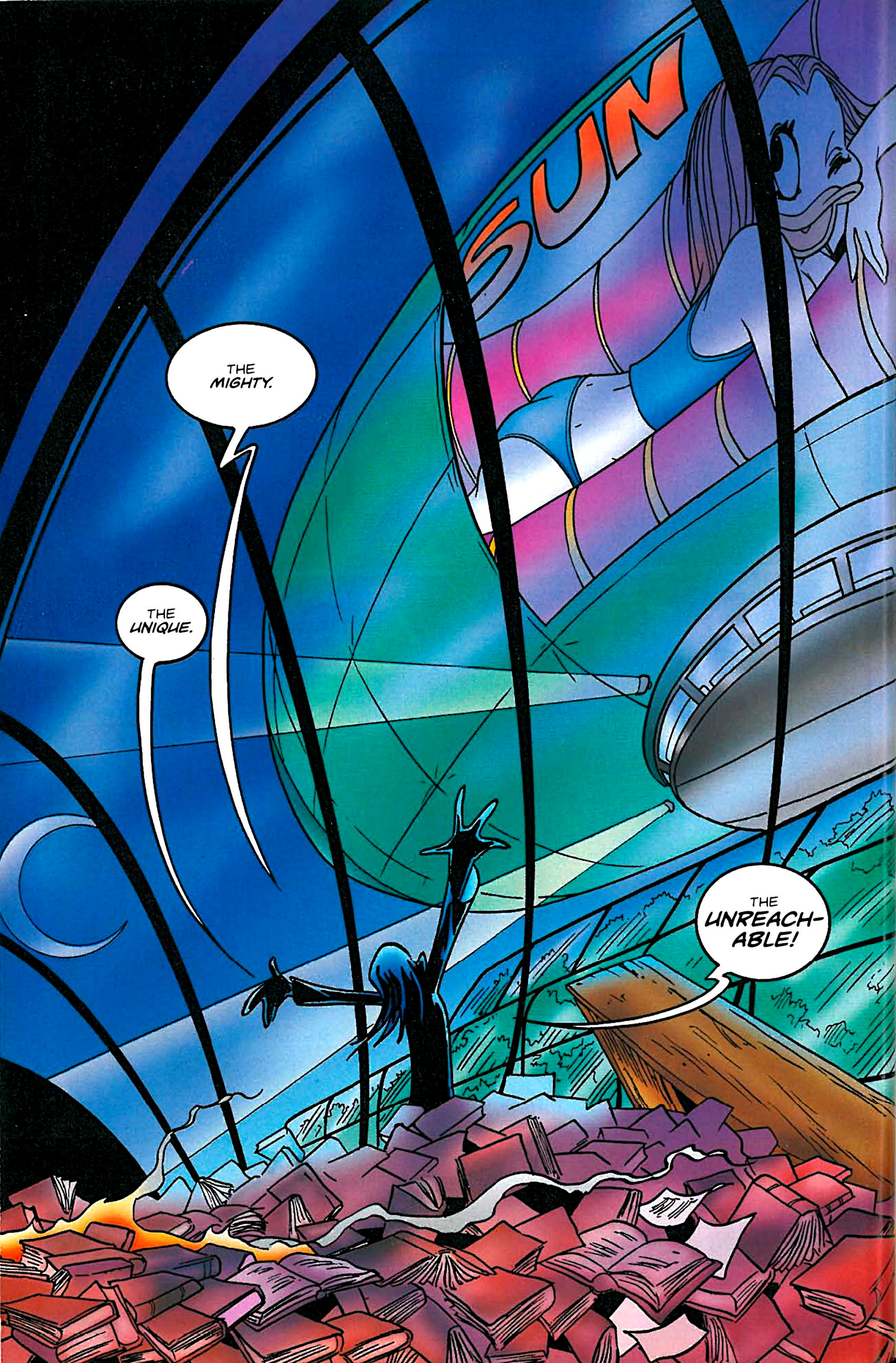

HOW ABOUT *ODIN?* WAS *HE* UNAWARE OF THE CHIP?
HE WOULD *NEVER* UNDERSTAND. YOU DON'T *KNOW* HIM.
OH, *REALLY?* LEMME GUESS.
YOU DID *ALL* THAT TO CREATE A SMALL *ARMY* OF YOUR OWN TO *TAKE OVER* THE WORLD?
HA HA HA! GOOD JOB!
YOU SEE? I GOT A *NOSE* FOR THIS STUFF.
BE HONEST. DO YOU READ A LOT OF *COMICS?*
A *FEW,* I GUESS- *HUH?*
LOOK AROUND YOU, DUCK AVENGER. THE WORLD'S *ALREADY MINE.*

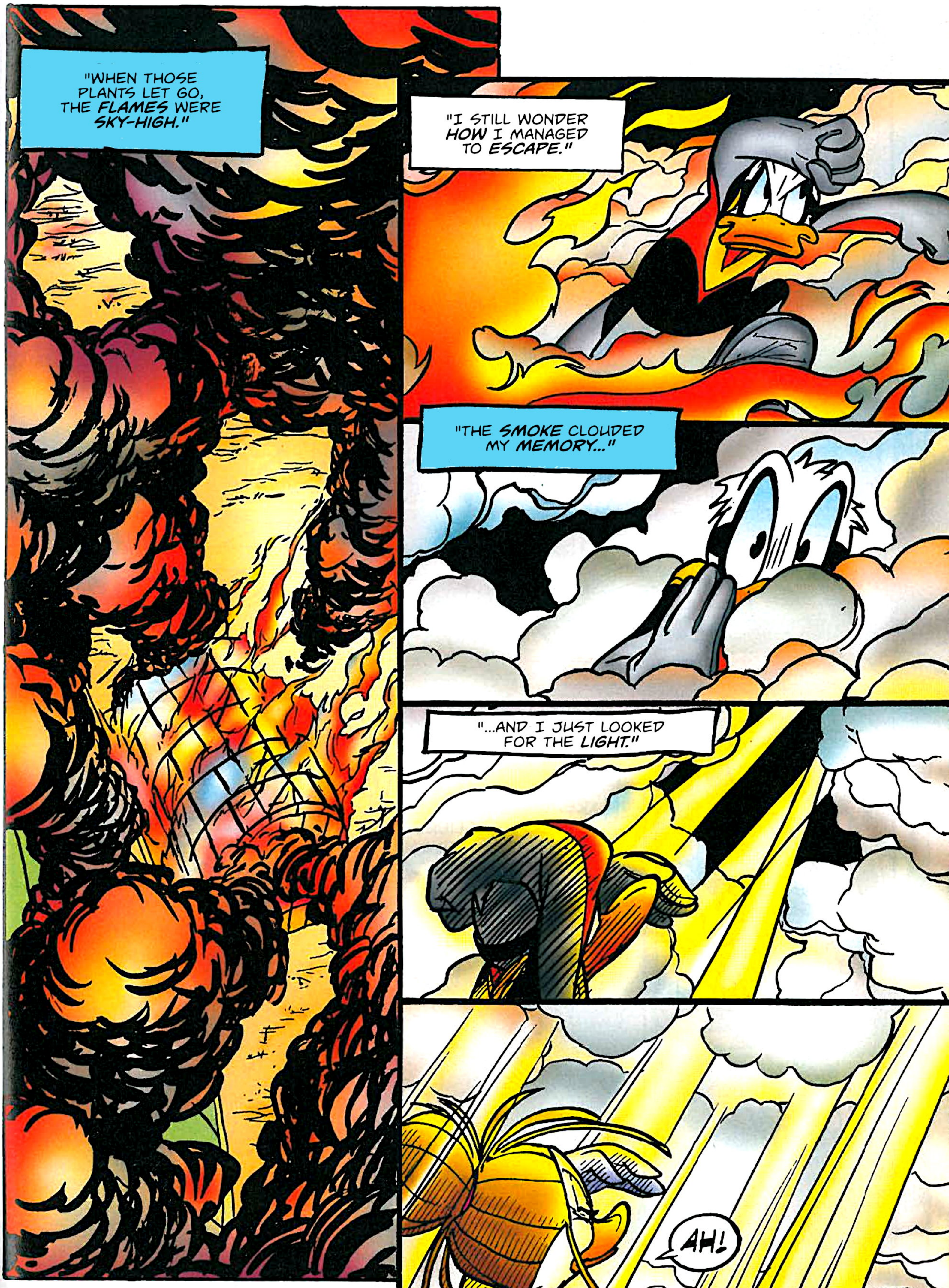

SUN
I HAVE CREATED THE IMAGE OF THE FUTURE!
BUT...WE MUST LOOK TO THE PAST, WHEN LIFE HAD MORE FLAVOR.
YOU BET IT DID. BACK THEN, MY GRANDMA MADE THE BEST CAKE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? I WASTED MY ENTIRE LIFE SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT IMAGE!
AND...I FOUND IT.
LYLA...!
PRECISELY. IN YOUR OPINION, WHY DO WE CHASE OUR DREAMS?
SOUNDS LIKE A QUESTION FOR A LATE-NIGHT TALK SHOW. I DUNNO. WHY DO WE?
FOR LOVE... AND ONLY FOR LOVE.

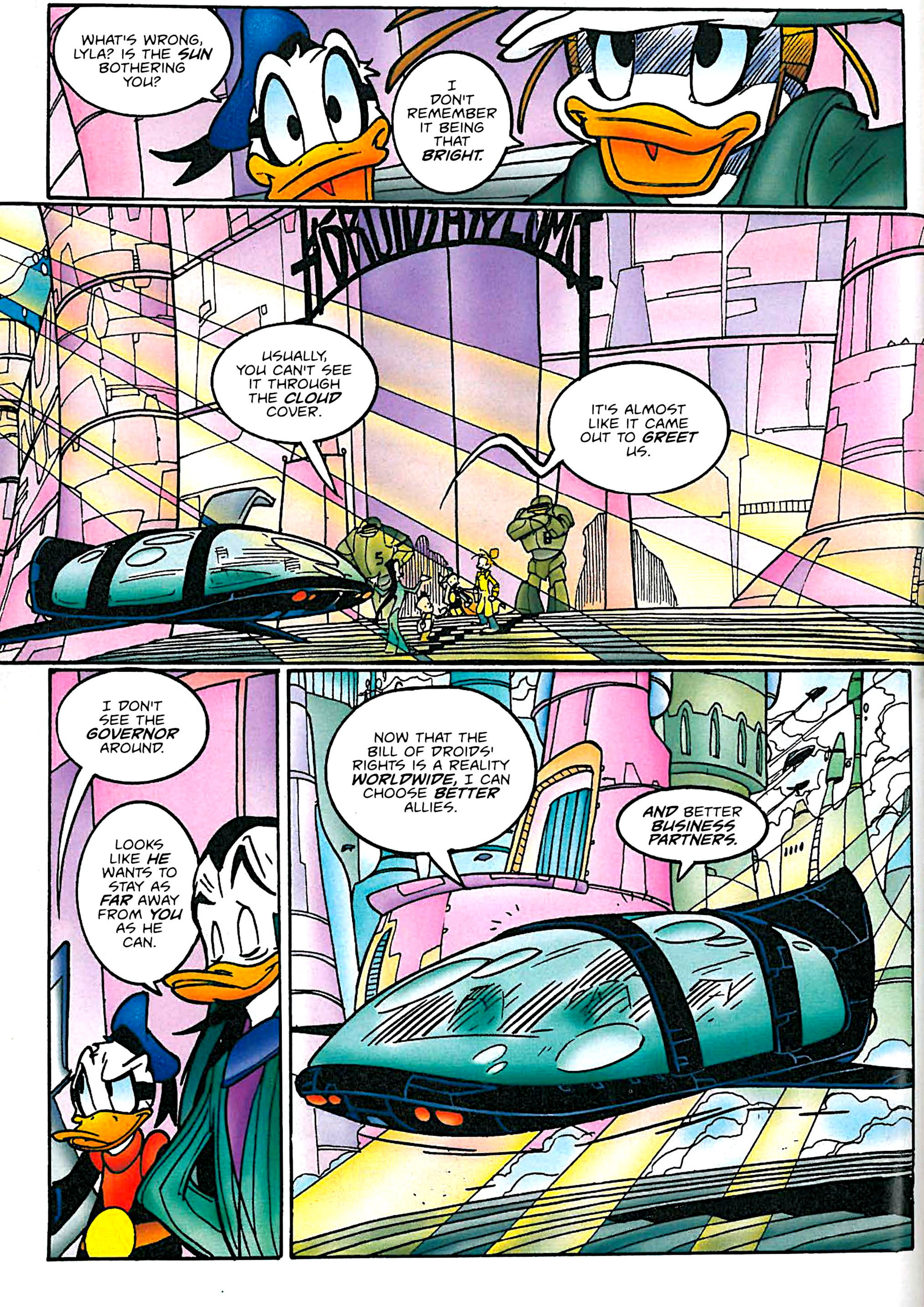

"I WANTED TO CREATE THE ONLY BEING CAPABLE OF SHARING *PASSIONS, HABITS, MEMORIES* WITH ME."
"THE *IDEAL* WOMAN, WHO WOULD *LOVE* ME FOR WHO I *AM.*"
YOU CAN'T CREATE LOVE IN A *LAB,* DOC.
SAYS *WHO?!* I *SUCCEEDED!*
UNLIKE THE OTHERS, *LYLA* RESPONDED *WELL* TO THE DEMANDS OF THE BIOCHIP.
SHE BEGAN TO *FEEL* THE SAME THINGS *I* FELT. SHE COULD *SMELL* THE SCENT OF *AUTUMN.*
THEY WOULD'VE ASSIGNED *ME* TO *REPROGRAM* HER AFTER THE TRIAL...
...AND... SHE WOULD'VE *LOVED* ME. *AUTOMATICALLY.*

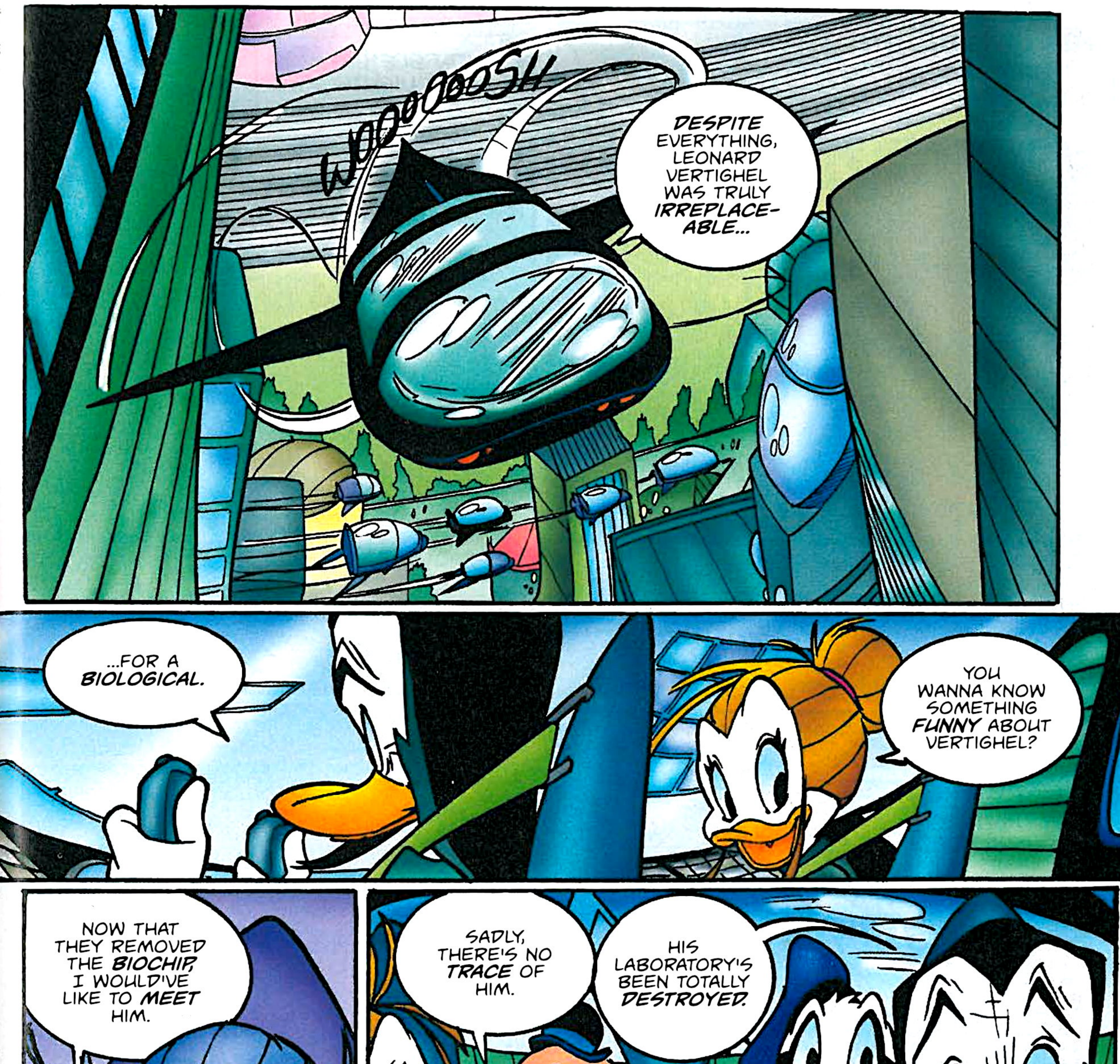

BUT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS RUINED EVERYTHING!
YEOW! COOL IT, DOC! HEARTBREAK HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US!
YOU THINK I'M NOTHING BUT A LONELY OLD HERMIT, DON'T YOU?!
DON'T BE SILLY! YOU GOT ALL THESE PRETTY PLANTS TO TALK TO!
THEY CAN'T SPEAK. BUT THEY CAN MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN IF THEY CHOOSE.
≥ACK!≤ MY SHIELD!
I MUST WARN YOU, AVENGER-I'M NOT ALONE. MY WORKSHOP IS SURROUNDED.
YOU'RE BLUFFING! ≥GRUNT!≤ BUT THAT HARDLY MATTERS NOW.

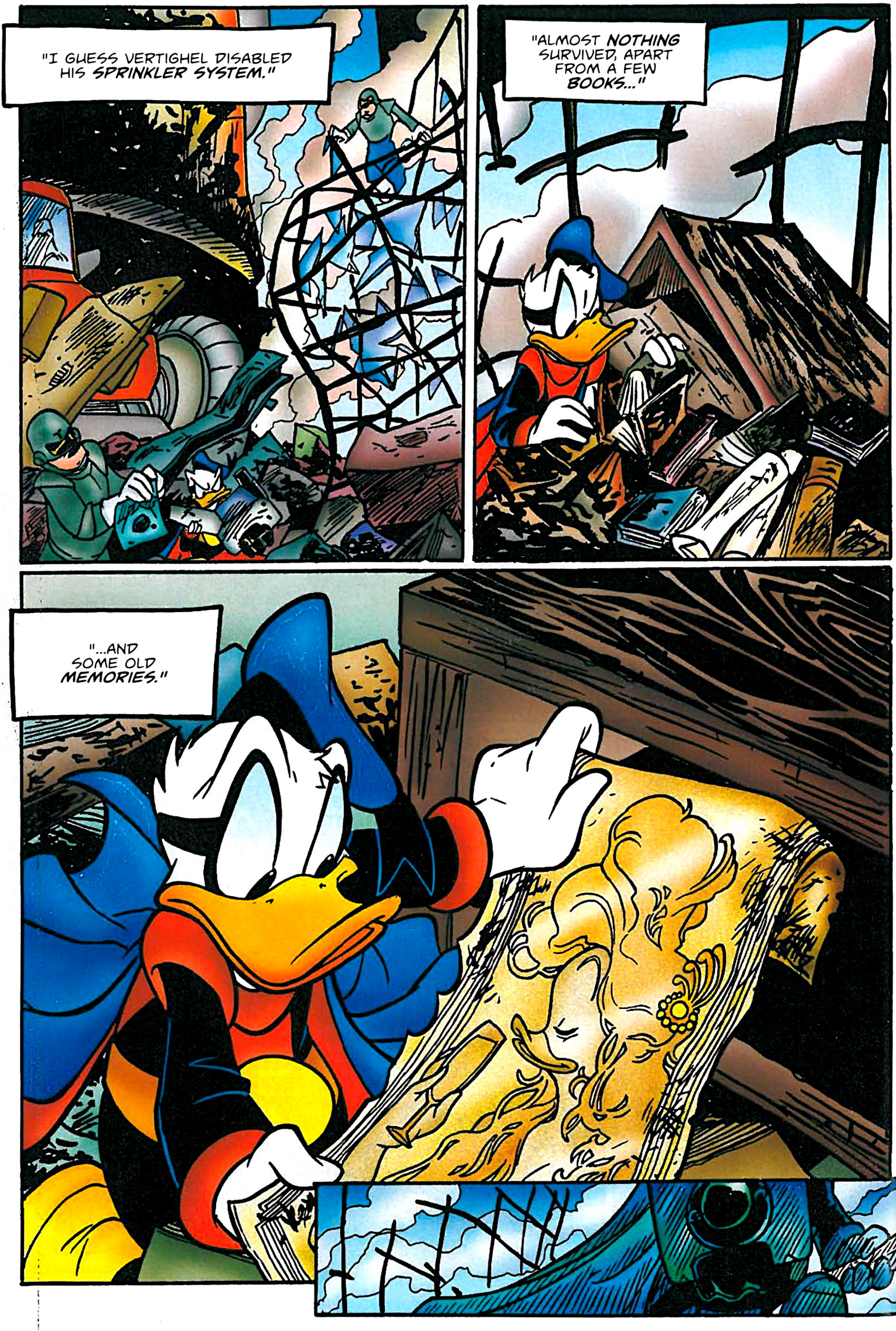

FINE! YOU WANT TRUTH?! THE TRUTH IS... NOTHING CAN FILL MY EMPTINESS!
NOTHING CAN SOOTHE MY PAIN!
VERTIGHEL! ≈KOFF-KOFF!≈
PAGES AND LEAVES! PAGES AND LEAVES! HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE IS HELD IN A PAGE, AND HOW MUCH LIFE HELD IN A LEAF?
HE'S GOING BONKERS! I GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS!
KNOWLEDGE AND LIFE. I HAD IT ALL! EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...

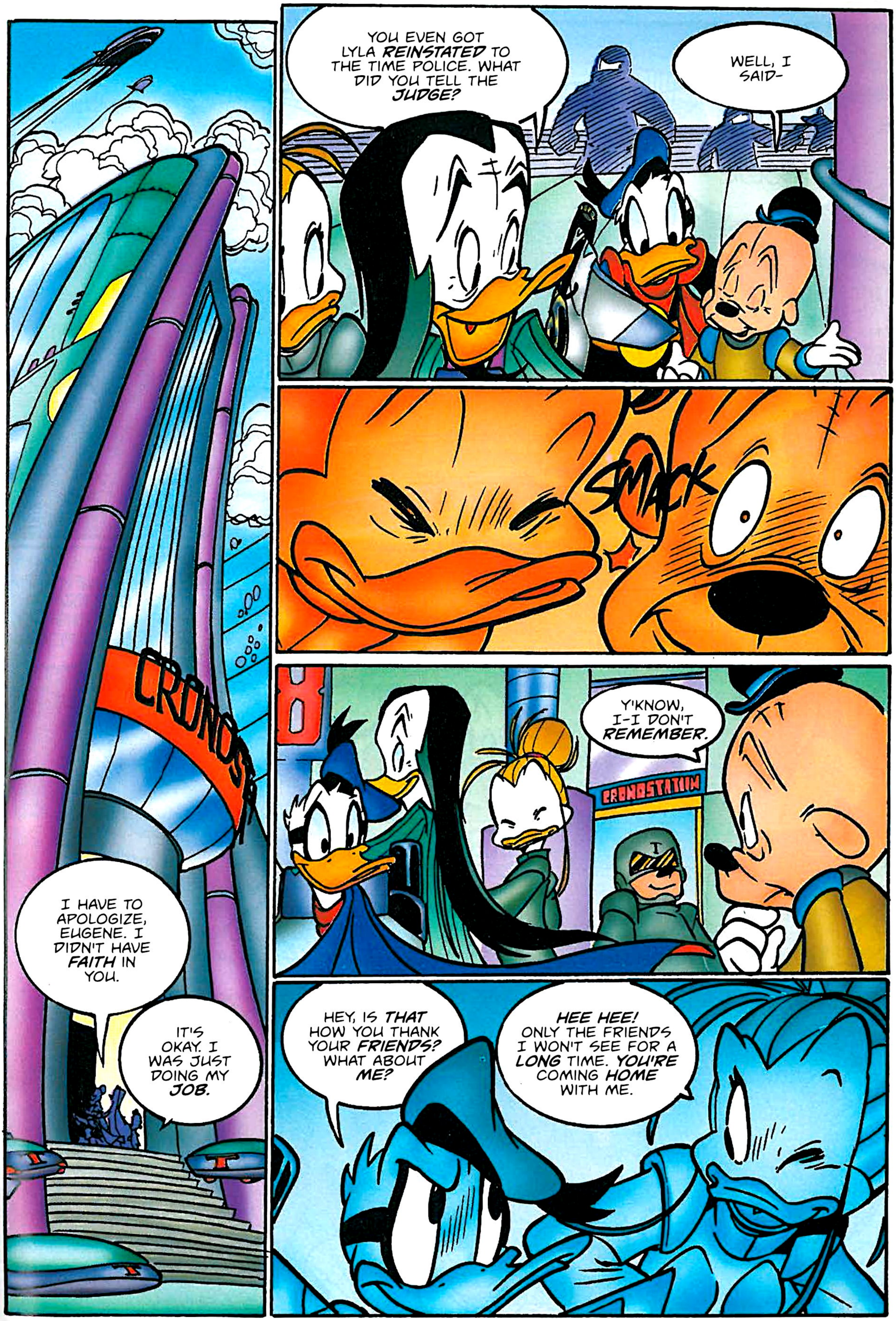

SUN
THE MIGHTY.
THE UNIQUE.
THE UNREACH-ABLE!

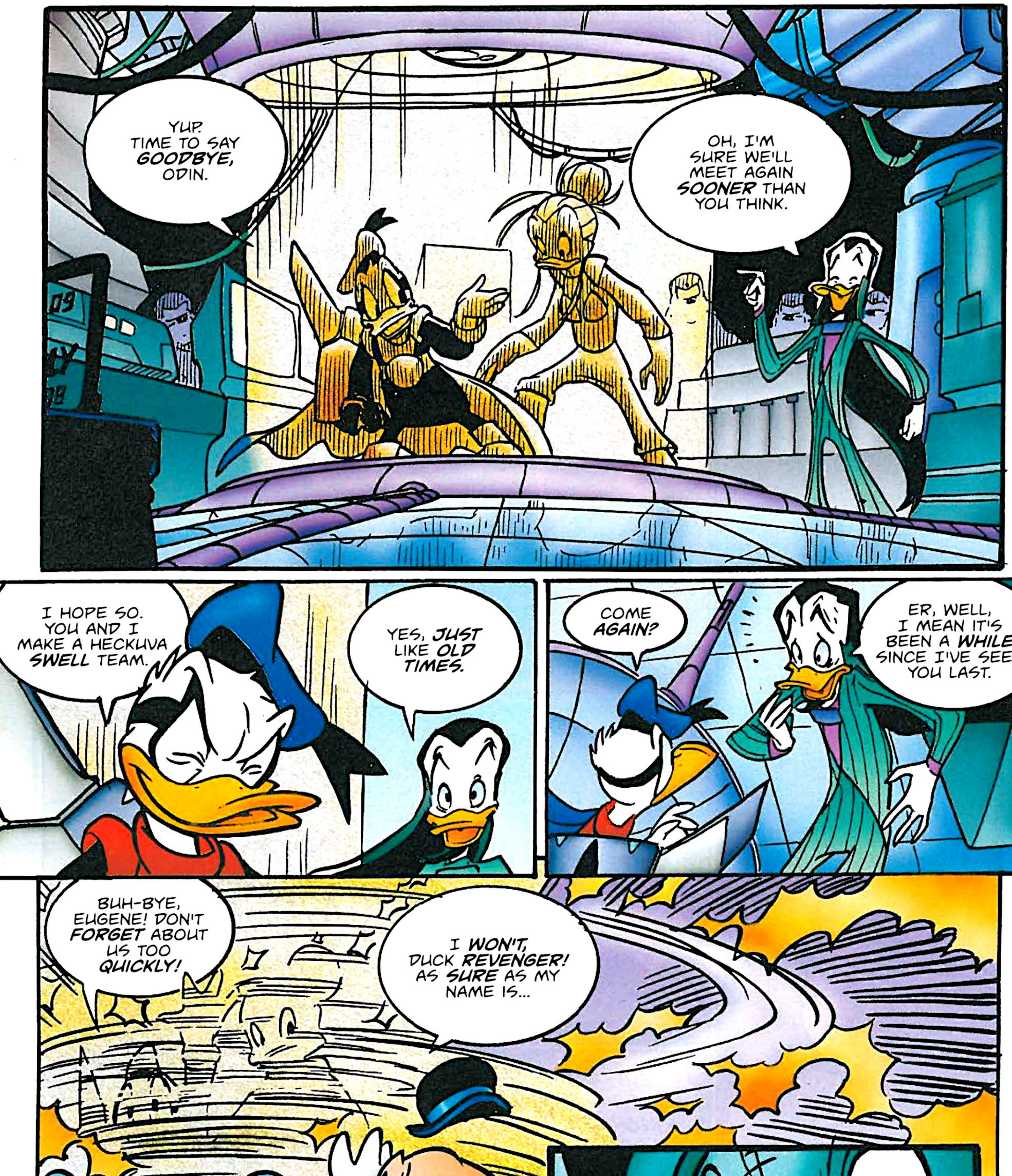

"WHEN THOSE PLANTS LET GO, THE *FLAMES* WERE *SKY-HIGH.*"
"I STILL WONDER *HOW* I MANAGED TO *ESCAPE.*"
"THE *SMOKE* CLOUDED MY *MEMORY...*"
"...AND I JUST LOOKED FOR THE *LIGHT.*"
AH!


WHAT'S WRONG, LYLA? IS THE SUN BOTHERING YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER IT BEING THAT BRIGHT.
USUALLY, YOU CAN'T SEE IT THROUGH THE CLOUD COVER.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT CAME OUT TO GREET US.
I DON'T SEE THE GOVERNOR AROUND.
LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM YOU AS HE CAN.
NOW THAT THE BILL OF DROIDS' RIGHTS IS A REALITY WORLDWIDE, I CAN CHOOSE BETTER ALLIES.
AND BETTER BUSINESS PARTNERS.


WOOOOOOSH
DESPITE EVERYTHING, LEONARD VERTIGHEL WAS TRULY IRREPLACEABLE...
...FOR A BIOLOGICAL.
YOU WANNA KNOW SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT VERTIGHEL?
NOW THAT THEY REMOVED THE BIOCHIP, I WOULD'VE LIKE TO MEET HIM.
SADLY, THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM.
HIS LABORATORY'S BEEN TOTALLY DESTROYED.
BUT YOU DID AN INVESTIGATION AFTER THE FIRE, RIGHT?
YEAH. I HAD TO GO BACK FOR MY X-TRANSFORMER.


"I GUESS VERTIGHEL DISABLED HIS **SPRINKLER SYSTEM.**"
"ALMOST **NOTHING** SURVIVED, APART FROM A FEW **BOOKS...**"
"...AND SOME OLD **MEMORIES.**"


CRONOSTATION
I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, EUGENE. I DIDN'T HAVE *FAITH* IN YOU.
IT'S OKAY. I WAS JUST DOING MY *JOB.*
YOU EVEN GOT LYLA *REINSTATED* TO THE TIME POLICE. WHAT DID YOU TELL THE *JUDGE?*
WELL, I SAID-
SMACK
Y'KNOW, I-I DON'T *REMEMBER.*
CRONOSTATION
HEY, IS *THAT* HOW YOU THANK YOUR *FRIENDS?* WHAT ABOUT *ME?*
HEE HEE! ONLY THE FRIENDS I WON'T SEE FOR A *LONG* TIME. *YOU'RE* COMING *HOME* WITH ME.


YUP. TIME TO SAY *GOODBYE*, ODIN.
OH, I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN *SOONER* THAN YOU THINK.
I HOPE SO. YOU AND I MAKE A HECKUVA *SWELL* TEAM.
YES, *JUST* LIKE *OLD TIMES*.
COME *AGAIN?*
ER, WELL, I MEAN IT'S BEEN A *WHILE* SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU LAST.
BUH-BYE, EUGENE! DON'T *FORGET* ABOUT US TOO *QUICKLY*!
I *WON'T*, DUCK *REVENGER*! AS *SURE* AS MY NAME IS...
UH... WHAT *IS* MY NAME?

-FINE-